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Daily Report
Central Eurasia

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Kuchma Seeks Postponement of 6 Oct CIS Summit

LD1909103494 Moscow INTERFAX in English 0934 GMT 19 Sep 94

[Text] President Leonid Kuchma of Ukraine has sent a letter to President Boris Yeltsin, the chairman of the Council of CIS Heads of State, requesting the postponement of the next CIS summit planned for October 6.

As Interfax learned from the CIS Executive Secretariat based in Minsk, Kuchma explained that on October 7-8 Ukraine will be celebrating the 50th anniversary of its liberation from Nazi invaders. The Ukrainian President invited his CIS counterparts to come to Kiev to join the festivities.

Interfax learned from unofficial sources that October 20 is viewed as a possible date for holding the next CIS summit.

Prospects for CIS Asian States' Economic Union

MK1609105094 Moscow KOMMERSANT-DAILY in Russian 16 Sep 94 p 3

[Report by Marat Salimov, Yevgeniy Lapin: "Prospects for Setting Up Eurasian Union. Asia To Create Its Own CIS Integration Center"]

[Excerpts] Tair Mansurov, Kazakhstan ambassador to Russia, met with journalists yesterday. His briefing was devoted to the international conference "Eurasian Space: Integration Potential and Its Realization," which opened in Almaty. It was not a coincidence that the conference was timed to take place between the meetings of the CIS premiers and heads of state scheduled to create an interstate economic committee and a payments union. Riding the crest of integrationist expectations, Nursultan Nazarbayev has once again put forward his idea of a Eurasian Union. In the meantime, the project has passed the drafting stage, but so far the union it envisions is more reminiscent of a relatively independent economic group of Central Asian states oriented not only toward Russia, but also toward Middle East and Pacific Rim countries. [passage omitted]

Central Asian Republics and the Outside World

The Eurasian Union's prospects at the CIS level are open to argument. Yet the union fully takes into account regional characteristics of the Central Asian countries' economic ties. On one hand, the countries are drawing on the Commonwealth's experience; they have concluded agreements on free trade (excepting energy resources and nonferrous metals). On the other, nowhere in the CIS are borders so transparent as in Central Asia. The latter circumstance is a particular asset if one recalls that Moscow and Dushanbe have not yet dotted the i's on Tajikistan's joining the Russian monetary system. All Central Asian republics, and Uzbekistan in the first place, stand to benefit from Tajikistan's membership of the ruble zone, particularly given that the Russian ruble is the hardest and most reliable currency in Central Asia.

As for the attraction of foreign investment by the region's countries, a number of credit lines have already been opened by Turkey (a total of $600 million earmarked for the region), the United States (the American-Central Asian Private Enterprise Fund has been set up with a head office in Almaty; the volume of credits is $150 million to be granted within three to four years), India (it has pledged $20 million to Uzbekistan alone), Pakistan (from $250 to $500 million as contribution to the restructuring of the Rogunskaya hydroelectric power station, 25 percent of whose shares are owned by Russia). Although as a rule the sums have as yet been only promised—an estimated 15 percent of the credits have already been released—the Central Asian republics do have certain grounds to count on foreign investment. As a result, economic integration, Central Asia-style, has realistic prospects for autonomous development.

Russia To Supply Precious Metals to CIS

MK1709095094 Moscow KOMMERSANT-DAILY in Russian 17 Sep 94 p 2

[Report by Vadim Bardin: "Russia Has Shared Out Gold Quotas Among the CIS Countries"]

[Text] Yesterday the government officially circulated a package of decrees approving a set of agreements on 1994 deliveries of precious metals and natural diamonds from Russia to Belorussia [Belarus], Kirgizia [Kyrgyzstan], Moldavia [Moldova], Turkmenistan, and Ukraine. Earlier a similar Russian-Armenian agreement was signed. The precious metal quotas have been distributed not among the CIS countries but among Russian enterprises which, on orders from CIS countries, will be producing and sending them semifinished products primarily for their electronics industries.

All the agreements prepared are standard. Their main provisions are that payment for deliveries is made in hard currency at world market prices for the day preceding the billing date (payment on account of Russian credits is now allowed); deliveries to the CIS must be preceded by consumer payments to Russian enterprises; if customer-supplied materials are involved, deliveries of finished products to Russia are exempt from customs duties (export duties are refunded when finished products are brought in); and re-export is not allowed. The essence of the agreements is that Russia does not deny a raw materials base even to those sectors of the Commonwealth countries that need semifinished precious metal products to implement their production programs. The hard currency receipts will go to the Russian federal budget.

The mechanism of gold production cooperation is therefore spelled out in sufficient detail. There are guarantees against nonpayments: A mandatory 100-percent advance payment in hard currency is envisioned. This is part of the reason why the agreements, which are designed for 1994, have not been prepared until now. Another reason is that the original requests by CIS countries were overstated. Experts with the Russian Precious Metals Committee, based on data on the condition of the industrial facilities on the territory of the former USSR using semifinished precious metal products, made their own appraisal of these requests.

Special note should be given to the re-export ban. If other terms of the agreements are observed, Russia's economic interests will not be damaged by re-export. On the other hand, this ban is a formal observance of obligations to De Beers (on jewelry diamonds). But not only this. There have been instances where Yakut diamonds sold by Russia through De Beers later on, through Israeli or Belgian intermediaries, ended up in polishing enterprises of Ukraine and Belorussia, which in the absence of direct Russian deliveries were forced to process them at distressed prices. The conclusion of agreements will allow in particular to load the cutting enterprises of the former USSR without participation of De Beers and other intermediaries.

ITAR-TASS Carries Press Review for 17 Sep

LD1709062994 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0526 GMT 17 Sep 94

["Press Review"—ITAR-TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow September 4 TASS—Four newspapers frontpage reports from Chechnya and the Crimea today. ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA writes that martial law has been imposed on Chechnya. In this situation the opposition to the Dudayev regime is looking for ways to rapprochement. Mutual understanding has already been reached by Ruslan Khasbulatov and head of the provisional council Umar Avtorkhanov, which adds a new element to the developments in that republic.

ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI carries an interview with Deputy Prime Minister of the Crimean Government Yevgeniy Saburov, which is entitled "mafia is winning in the Crimea". Speaking about the origin of the political crisis on the peninsula, he pointed out that it came as a result of "the desire of many members of the Crimean parliament to have their people in the cabinet of ministers." The clan system and corruptibility have deep roots in the Crimea. After the disintegration of the USSR many officials began to help business people, elected to the parliament, to firmly establish their business, and came to be dependent on them. After getting firmly established, those clans began to divide the Crimea into spheres of influence. The merging of interests of political and mafia structures took place, Saburov said.

In the opinion of KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA, the "settling of scores" between the legislative and executive branches of power in the Crimea benefits the Kiev authorities. "The deeper the Crimean government and parliament flounder in their domestic contradictions, the less they will look in the direction of Russia," the newspaper writes.

KRASNAYA ZVEZDA observer Aleksandr Golts believes that the root cause of the Crimean crisis is the "peculiar mentality of post-soviet politicians." "All of them, now irreconcilable opponents, were allies quite recently," he writes. The problem is that life put them on the opposite sides of the barricades, and now they regard politics as the struggle for power, in the first place."

TRUD comments on "a regular review of the functioning of the Russian economy during eight months of the current year," prepared by the Economic Reform Centre. "The first thing that catches the eye is the slowing down of the pace of the falling-off of industrial production. Savings of the population are growing. Last year Russian citizens could put aside less than five per cent of their incomes, while today the figure exceeds eight percent... This means that things are not that bad," the newspaper writes.

KRASNAYA ZVEZDA carries an interview with Arkadiy Volskiy, chairman of the Union of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs of Russia. He said that the situation facing the defence industry is especially difficult today. In his opinion, the main reason for the "low effectiveness of the economic reform in Russia" is the wrong choice of time for the liberalization of prices. Another reason, which led to the dramatic falling-off of production, was the disruption of economic ties between enterprises located in the former USSR republics.

The government discussed at its recent meeting a programme of the development of agriculture in the central regions of Russia, IZVESTIYA writes. The question arises: Why did the government postpone the programme of agricultural development of central Russia? An answer to this question is given in an article by Yelena Yakovleva.

Ivan Ivanyuk writes in KRASNAYA ZVEZDA about the deplorable situation of the Russian Army. His article is entitled "Russian Army Marching Towards the Area Beyond the Poverty Line". He shows with the help of facts and examples that the "Russian Army is steadily moving towards the poverty line" and stresses that this creates in the armed forces the atmosphere of hopelessness and social tension.

NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA writes that "on September 22 Boris Yeltsin will come up with a TV address to the nation on the occasion of the first anniversary of the developments of September and October, 1993. In the opinion of observers, the presidential address will show how real is the prospect of the creation of a coalition government with the participation of representatives of the opposition this autumn," the newspaper writes.

Reactions to Possible U.S. Haitian Invasion

Foreign Ministry Issues Statement

LD1709083294 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0750 GMT 17 Sep 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Moscow, 17 Sep—"Regrettably, the Russian Foreign Ministry is compelled to state that the development of events around Haiti could follow a scenario of force, heating up the already restless situation in the Caribbean region." This is said in a Russian Foreign Ministry statement which arrived at ITAR-TASS today. The document stresses that, in backing UN Security Council Resolution 940 which provides for the possibility of using "all necessary means" to restore law and order in Haiti, "we took into consideration the unique nature of the situation that had come about in Haiti, the incessant mass violations of human rights there. At the same time Russia clearly indicated its preference for the use of political and diplomatic levers to settle the Haitian conflict."

In view of this, Russia's Foreign Ministry believes that "the action by the multinational forces can be justified, as is also envisaged by the decisions of the UN Security Council, only if the putschists do not listen to reason and, disregarding the demands of the world community, continue to cling to power, refusing to leave the country voluntarily."

If this action takes place, the statement stresses, "we shall see to it, as the Security Council is also called upon to do, that all operations are carried out in accordance with the principles of the United Nations and within the framework of the resolutions adopted by the Security Council". The violence factor must be kept to a minimum to avoid human casualties, the statement says.

The document notes that the "action of the multinational forces must not affect the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Haitian state, stability in the Caribbean, or the security and sovereignty of other countries in the region, or create a precedent for resolving internal political conflicts in other states."

Plan Linked To 'Legitimate Interests'

LD1909093394 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0908 GMT 19 Sep 94

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Nikolay Kalintsev]

[Text] Moscow September 19 TASS—Washington's intention to invade Haiti was prompted by "U.S. legitimate interests", Sergey Karaganov, a prominent Russian political scientist and member of the Presidential Council, told ITAR-TASS on Monday.

"Americans had their own internal political agenda. They viewed an invasion of Haiti primarily as a measure to strengthen stability in the region. Secondly, this would be a move to prevent mass migration. All these are U.S. legitimate interests, although many in America question the wisdom of their politicians," the political scientist said.

Karaganov regards as unfounded the assertions by some news media about an alleged division of the spheres of influence between the U.S. and Russia. They allege that in exchange for Moscow's support for a U.S. intervention in Haiti, Washington would give carte blanche to Russia to act in ex-Soviet republics. The 'second Yalta' theory is totally unwarranted, the political scientist emphasised.

"We are not given carte blanche and we do not need it. We should use our peacekeeping force only when all other possibilities to settle a conflict are exhausted. The less we shall use peacekeepers, the better. Simply, the Americans have come to realise that no one, except Russia - possibly under the world community's monitoring - can prevent crises in the former Soviet Union better. It is on this assumption that the mutual understanding of the interests of Russia and America is based," Karaganov said.

Invasion Plans 'Just'

SK1709091394 Moscow Radio Moscow in Korean 1200 GMT 16 Sep 94

[Commentary by Yuriy Solton from the "Today's World" program]

[Text] On 15 September U.S. President Bill Clinton appealed to the people to support a military invasion [kunsajok chimip] of Haiti. He declared that the United States used up all diplomatic means and now is the time to take action.

Pertaining to this, Yuriy Solton, commentator of this broadcast station, wrote as follows:

The Haitian military authorities overthrew President Jean- Bertrand Aristide, who was legally elected three years ago. If they do not voluntarily transfer power, an invasion is inevitable. Everything is ready for the operation.

The order to invade may be issued early next week. The United States, which independently acted as the master of the Western sphere, will have UN support. The UN Security Council approved the military invasion.

Russia also supported the draft of the relevant resolution. It is obvious that 20,000 U.S. troops, with the support of 2,000 soldiers from 20 nations—Air force and Navy—will repel 7,000 Haitian troops in an instant.

The U.S. President stated that the purpose of the operation is to restore the democratically elected government at the first stage, and to conduct new elections in Haiti at the second stage and ensure order and security until the new government begins to carry out its mission.

Washington plans to keep a portion of the invasion troops in Haiti until February (?1996). We feel that the mission to rescue the Haitian citizens from a dictatorial system is just. The military authorities in Haiti have maintained a terrorist system for over three years. Nearly 3,000 people have been massacred for political reasons. The people are suffering from terror. The Haitian people are attempting to escape from the island by all means.

However, some problems have arisen. Have all means been truly utilized for restoring democracy? How can one explain the number of victims that will inevitably result from the invasion? Can foreign invasion troops establish another system in this country? The adventure of the Soviet Army in Afghanistan, and the situation in which the United States carried out a policing mission in Somalia under UN support lead to negative answers to these questions.

In addition, questions, such as whether or not the UN Security Council is fulfilling its mission by encouraging a military invasion and whether or not the invasion will develop into a dangerous incident in international relations, have been raised.

Political Repercussions Viewed

MM1609171994 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 17 Sep 94 p 2

[Report by Vadim Markushin: "Clinton Has Expounded Plan for Restoration of Law on Haiti"]

[Text] Once the de facto ruler of Haiti, General Raoul Cedras, had publicly declared that he is "more ready to depart this life than renounce power and leave the island," a military solution to the Haiti crisis became, according to the common opinion of observers, inevitable. The dictator rejected the White House proposal regarding a "comfortable existence" beyond the country's borders if he agrees to remove all obstacles to restoring the power of the legally elected President Aristide. In doing so, he all but signaled to President Clinton: It's up to you, do what you like.

However, the junta's intractability is merely one "argument" in favor of armed intervention. Another ought to be the support of the world's public and the U.S. population. And although, on the whole, the international community is demonstrating solidarity with Washington, the fact is that within the United States itself there are more opponents of sending soldiers on another crusade than there are supporters. As a result of this disposition of forces, yesterday's appeal by Bill Clinton to his compatriots was filled with a sense of moral purification.

The president said, among other things, that the United States had made use of the entire arsenal of diplomatic means to resolve the Haitian problem and that all that remains now is to act. In his view, Americans should have no doubts about the correctness of such a step, as the junta had established a rule of terror, raping women and murdering even children and clergymen. Having reminded the television and radio audience that responsibility for the preservation of democratic values in the whole world had been placed on the United States (by God, evidently—V.M.), Clinton expounded his program for removing the junta from power. It comprises two stages. The first is to return the democratically elected government to power and to resurrect the Haitian security forces. Then, after the departure of the bulk of the expeditionary corps—in roughly three months—the task will be to guarantee the organization of new elections during next year and the accession of a new government at the beginning of 1996.

So, the invasion decision has been promulgated. And it is not so much the progress of the military operation which will demonstrate whether or not it is a success (obviously, there will be no problems on this score) as the ability of the "outsiders" to help establish normal life on the island. In this sense, Clinton, of course, risks bringing down a new wave of criticism upon himself in the event of failure.

Official on Russian Participation

LD1909135094 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1247 GMT 19 Sep 94

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent]

[Text] Moscow, 19 Sep—Russia's participation in UN operations in Haiti would entail the dispatch of several observers as part of an international police contingent, ITAR-TASS was told today by Galina Sidorova, political advisor to the Russian foreign minister.

She said this would involve the second stage of the operation, aimed at maintaining public order during a transitional period and restoring the legitimate authorities.

When the well-known UN resolutions on Haiti were being prepared, G. Sidorova recalled, the plan was to conduct an international operation consisting of two stages. These could even be said to be two distinct operations, one after the other. Preparation of the first - the military - stage was assumed by the United States. Given the latest events, this will now apparently become acceptance by Haiti's dictatorial regime of the ultimatum and its willingness to surrender power.

Since the very beginning, G. Sidorova continued, there was a second stage under UN auspices planned - help in restoring normal civic order. Deployment of international police forces was envisaged during this stage, and Russia is willing to supply several observers. These forces would also include representatives of neutral countries. Russian involvement in the police contingent would be based on clauses in the appropriate UN Security Council resolution.

Russian Participation 'Unconstitutional'

LD1909145094 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1435 GMT 19 Sep 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vladimir Taranov]

[Text] Moscow September 19 TASS—The exotic idea of sending Russian troops to participate in international police forces in Haiti is unconstitutional, Vladimir Lukin, chairman of the State Duma's Committee for International Affairs, told ITAR-TASS on Monday.

On October 5, 1993, United Nations Secretary-General Butrus-Ghali asked a number of countries, including Russia, to provide personnel toward the composition of a police contingent. Official representative of the U.N. secretary-general Joe Sills said on September 17, 1994 that Russia consented to participate in a peacekeeping operation in Haiti.

Russia had indeed consented to participate in a United Nations peacekeeping operation, ITAR-TASS learned from the Russian Foreign Ministry. The situation in Haiti was then calm. Chiefs of the Haitian junta agreed to step down voluntarily. However, the situation in Haiti has of late aggravated. There are now plans to send to Haiti a police force that would include representatives of a number of countries. Before launching the operation, this matter should be debated again in the U.N. Security Council, officials of the Russian Foreign Ministry believe.

Commenting on this situation, Lukin said that the decision on the participation of Russian troops in actions beyond the limits of the country is made under the Constitution by Russia's Federation Council. "It is unconstitutional to say that somebody else may make a decision of sending Russian troops for operations outside the country", Lukin said.

Commentary on Upcoming U.S.-Russian Summit

Noninvasion 'Favorable' To Yeltsin Visit

LD1909122794 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1043 GMT 19 Sep 94

[By ITAR-TASS parliamentary correspondent Ivan Novikov]

[Text] Moscow, 19 Sep—The fact that it has been possible to avert a U.S. armed invasion of Haiti creates a more favorable background for the visit by Boris Yeltsin to the United States, Vladimir Lukin, chairman of the State Duma committee for International Affairs, thinks. "There is no doubt that this new factor in world politics will make the atmosphere at the forthcoming UN session considerably less tense," he told the ITAR-TASS correspondent.

As a member of the Russian delegation to the United States, Vladimir Lukin and his Federation Council colleague Vladimir Podoprigora will meet U.S. Congress representatives within the framework of the visit by the Russian president. "It will allow opinions to be exchanged on painful points of Russian-U.S. relations and to try to somehow draw our positions on a number of international questions closer," Vladimir Lukin said. He thinks, in particular, that the U.S. congress was patently hasty in adopting a resolution on lifting the embargo on arms deliveries to Bosnian Muslims. He stressed that Russian parliamentarians intend to discuss with the Americans the problem of the Russian-speaking population in the Baltics. "It's possible that contacts at the parliamentary level will also be a help to the conversations between Boris Yeltsin and Bill Clinton," Vladimir Lukin noted [sentence as received].

He noted that he does not share the opinion of some Russian politicians that Russian-U.S. relations are worsening. "Of course, we have our differences; we look at some international problems differently, such as the Bosnian crisis and issues concerning the transformation of European security. But on questions of fundamental importance, Russia and the United States are neither enemies nor rivals," Vladimir Lukin stressed. "On the eve of the visit by Boris Yeltsin to the United States, we have to say that Russia and the United States have good opportunities to work together on a wide range of problems," he said.

Advance Team to Address U.S. Public

LD1909091294 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0838 GMT 19 Sep 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Tamara Zamyatina]

[Text] Moscow September 19 TASS—A group of Russian president's advisers is to set out for the USA on September 20 in the run-up to the Russo-American summit scheduled for the end of the month - for the first time during Yeltsin's term of office.

The group comprises experts who are to inform American general public about contemporary life in Russia: its economy, domestic and foreign policies. The group is led by Aleksandr Livshits, doctor of sciences (economics), and includes Sergey Karaganov, associate director of the Institute of Europe under the Russian Academy of Sciences and member of the Presidential Council; and Emil Pain, expert on interethnic problems from the presidential analytical centre.

According to Pain, the ultimate goal of his mission consists in persuading American general public that Russia has resolutely taken the course of democracy.

Domestic political situation in Russia stabilized markedly. People gave up superfluous passion for politics and began to pay more attention to their private life - a development which insures society against upheavals, Pain said.

The fact that "three-year period of stormy outbreaks of ethnic and political migration came to an end" also indicates stabilization of internal situation. "Nowadays, migration in Russia has become social and economic: people are leaving places of poorer (economic) situation for places of better (economic) conditions. It is a migration mechanism typical of any other civilized country of the world," Pain said.

According to him, strengthening of Federation also contributes to stabilization of the situation inside the country. "The threat of Russia's disintegration has been overcome," he emphasized.

Pro-nationalist and separatist sentiments which emerged in certain regions turned out to be unviable, he added.

The negative example posed by Chechnya may also serve to strengthen the Federation, because it proves that as soon as any republic tries to get independent beyond measure, insurmountable domestic strife sets in. "The Chechen example will hardly inspire anyone to reiterate the abortive experiment," Pain said.

According to him, these arguments may influence the on-going discussion in the USA between those who believe that Russia has embarked on a course of democracy and those who deny that democratic reforms are taking place there.

The expert group will also try to show the American party that the Russian leadership is interested in equal economic and political bilateral cooperation rather than in getting American support.

Arms Trade Discussion Urged

LD1809102994 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0900 GMT 18 Sep 94

[Text] The arms trade must be discussed at the coming Russian- U.S. summit at the end of September, Professor Sergey Blagovolin, a member of the Presidential Council, told a RIA correspondent. He says Russia and the U.S. need to work out rules for arms trading which other countries could also adopt. Sergey Blagovolin also said that both sides should endeavor to broaden military links, in particular more military exercises like those held recently at Totskoye near Orenburg should be held more often.

Nuclear Energy To Be Discussed

LD1609172094 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1333 GMT 16 Sep 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Veronika Romanenkova]

[Text] Moscow September 16 TASS—The upcoming U.S. visit of Russian President Boris Yeltsin is not expected to result in bilateral agreements on nuclear power engineering. At the same time, the sides will discuss their cooperation in the nuclear energy sphere, including problems of the Uranium market, elimination of nuclear warheads and cancellation of anti-damping taxes, a well- informed source told ITAR-TASS.

Russia has been selling Uranium for over 20 years. The first contract of the sort was concluded with France in 1971. Russian sellers entered the U.S. market in 1990, and are delivering four percent of the overall U.S. Uranium purchases.

A Russian-U.S. contract on Russian processing of highly-enriched Uranium from nuclear warheads and its delivery to the United States for sales to the third nations was signed in February 1994. The document provides for an annual processing of ten tonnes of Uranium within the first five years, and later processing of 30 tonnes annually. The Uranium sales proceeds are expected to reach 200 million U.S. dollars a year at the initial stage and three times more five years later.

Russia, which has 50 per cent of the world Uranium stock and 25 per cent of the world Uranium processing facilities, will be allowed to surpass only the ten-per cent exports limit. In the opinion of Russian Minister for Nuclear Energy Viktor Mikhailov, they do not want a strong competitor, Russia, on the world market. This contract is a forced measure, bearing in mind Russia cannot supply Uranium to third states without the U.S. mediation.

The damping problem has not been solved as well. The U.S. industrial community and trade unions accused the former Soviet Union of Uranium sales at damping prices in January 1992 for fear of competition.

Although the accusation was fully rejected (the price on Russian Uranium was established on the basis of world prices and fully covers the Russian production spending), the investigation of the trade department fixed a 116 per cent due for the Russian Uranium imported to the United States. In fact, this due excludes further Russian deliveries. An agreement to suspend the anti-dumping investigation was signed in October 1992. However, in the opinion of Russian specialists, the problem has not been fully settled.

'One-Third' of U.S. Side in Totsk Involved in Intelligence

MM1609125794 Moscow NOVAYA YEZHEDNEVNAYA GAZETA in Russian 16 Sep 94 p 3

[Unattributed report: "Double Dealing: One-Third of U.S. Army Soldiers Were Intelligence Officers"]

[Text] The Americans used 27 aircraft to bring 250 servicemen to the exercises in Orenburg Oblast. Main Intelligence Directorate [GRU] specialists, who gave us this information, estimate that most of them were crammed full of electronic reconnaissance gear. One-third of the 250 U.S. soldiers were representatives of "Green Beret" intelligence subunits. The Americans were unable to use their C-130 heavy transporters since our Antey, which tried out the test range's runways, almost crashed: The concrete of the runway buckled under the weight.

Following a report from their intelligence service, the Americans decided not to take the risk. Our military, who were somewhat aggrieved at the plethora of foreign intelligence officers, have also decided to send GRU special subunit personnel to the return exercises in the United States. The following saying is already doing the rounds at the General Staff: "A third of their people were intelligence personnel, we will send them half."

There were funny incidents at Totskoye too. On the last day of the exercises rear services personnel laid out 681 "places" for a picnic, but a host of "freeloaders" from Moscow came along, so there were not enough places for our soldiers. "There was no" hard liquor at the picnic, but everyone got fairly drunk. Evidently that was why journalists were taken away from the test range a day earlier....

Karadzic Warns of 'All-Out War' If Embargo Lifted

LD1909092294 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0835 GMT 19 Sep 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Ivan Ivanov]

[Text] Pale (Serb Republic) 19 Sep—Radovan Karadzic, chairman of the Presidium of the Serb Republic, said in an interview with ITAR-TASS that if the international embargo on arms supplies to the Muslim side is lifted, the Bosnian Serbs "will mobilize all forces in the republic and start an all-out war in Bosnia aimed at knocking out the enemy." He said the Bosnian Serbs would be "forced" to do this.

"If the UN Security Council lifts the embargo on arms supplies to the Muslims, we will regard this body as ceasing to exist and will not observe any of its decisions. We cannot just stand by while our enemies get stronger and we will be forced to start an all-out war to defeat our enemy, to stop it becoming stronger," R. Karadzic said.

Asked what the Bosnian Serbs would do if the UN Security Council adopts a resolution to tighten international sanctions against the Serb Republic, its president said: "In that case we shall immediately impose sanctions on the Muslims." "I also believe that we will then have to consider whether the Bosnian Serbs can allow a flow of supplies for UN protection forces," he added, stressing that sanctions against the Serb Republic, which will be "an act of violence on the part of the international community against us, will mean just one thing, that is war."

R. Karadzic believes that the only way out of the Bosnian crisis is to prepare new maps of territorial division of Bosnia- Herzegovina. "We also demand that our representative participate in the drawing up of the new maps," he stressed, noting that the new peace plan has to contain such elements as recognition of sovereignty of the Bosnian Serbs' state and giving it a single rather than a split territory. R. Karadzic said that international mediators must necessarily take part in the Bosnian peace process "as a means of communication between the Serb, Muslim, and Croat sides" and in order to justify the need for the Serbs to give up some territories to the Croat-Muslim federation. "I, for one, have no right to give up one Serb village of my own accord. it is clear, however, that certain territories will have to be ceded, and we are prepared to do it. That should be the justification for having international mediators."

The leader of the Bosnian Serbs stated that "Russia should begin to help the Serb Republic openly to ensure that our minimum interests are realized." "Moreover, at present, the West is realizing its strategic interests in the Balkans through the Muslims and Croats. Unless Russia ensures its strategic interests through the Serbs it will lose its influence in the Balkans forever."

R. Karadzic thinks that it is necessary "to restore immediately without any conditions the truce between the warring sides in Bosnia, to place the UN forces between the Serbs and Muslims and then to seek in conditions of peace a comprehensive solution to the Bosnian crisis." "When the fighting has stopped, the Serbs, Muslims, and Croats should sit down at the negotiating table and draw up new maps and a peace agreement," he said.

Kozyrev Scores Delay in Lifting Sanctions

MM1609104394 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 16 Sep 94 p 3

[Report by Sergey Sidorov: "Sanctions: Harder To Lift Than Impose?"]

[Text] The unjustifiable delay in adopting a resolution to suspend at least some of the sanctions against Yugoslavia dissatisfies Russia and is creating problems in its relations with the "contact group." This was stated by Russian Federation Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev before he flew to Oslo to meet with the heads of the Nordic countries' foreign policy departments.

The minister stressed that Russia consistently advocates support for the "party of peace" in the Bosnian conflict, an important role in which is played by Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic. At the same time, A. Kozyrev advocated further measures to influence the Bosnian Serb leadership, which he included among the "party of war" owing to their refusal to accept the "contact group's" peace plan....

News agencies have reported that a UN Security Council draft resolution easing sanctions against the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia [FRY] is ready in principle. But Russia's Western partners in the "contact group" are insisting that they first need to see for themselves whether Belgrade is indeed not supplying the Bosnian Serbs with military hardware and is strictly observing the embargo that it imposed itself. To that end the first seven experts from the special mission located along the FRY border with Bosnia-Herzegovina were sent to Serbia and Montenegro Wednesday. They will be joined by another 20 colleagues headed by Swedish General Bu Pellnas [name as transliterated] Friday.

Yet there is still no answer to the question of just when the UN Security Council will pass the resolution easing sanctions against Belgrade. Correspondents have learned from diplomatic sources in Geneva that the passing of this resolution is unlikely to be possible in September, given that the Bu Pellnas mission will present its interim report only at the end of this month (provided things go well). It is even less clear when the International Conference on the Former Yugoslavia will produce its final report and when there will be unanimity among the "contact group" members about the timetable for examining the question at the Security Council.

The details of the operation, which was approved at a "contact group" session in Geneva, were announced by David Owen, cochairman of the International Conference on the Former Yugoslavia Coordinating Committee. According to him, it is a purely civilian mission. The experts will not be in uniform or armed, they will cooperate closely with the Yugoslav Red Cross and FRY officials, including the customs services. The FRY authorities are allocating 130 drivers and translators to help them.

Talks With Germany on Nuclear Security Previewed

LD1709144594 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1242 GMT 17 Sep 94

[Text] Russian Counterintelligence Service director Sergey Stepashin said that, during his forthcoming visit to Bonn, he would continue talks with Germany's security service on measures to prevent illegal nuclear material traffic.

Stepashin told Interfax before his departure, scheduled for Sunday, that Germany has no proof that the plutonium confiscated from Russians in Munich airport last month comes from Russia. Nor do the Germans insist on this any longer, he added.

"We have made several very serious investigations to find out who smuggles nuclear components and have reached agreement with Germany to exchange relevant documents," Stepashin said. "I have already said that the German side has given us several names (connected with the Munich incident). We also have several names on record."

Stepashin said security at Russia's facilities for making weapon- grade plutonium is tight enough to preclude any theft of the radioactive material.

Commenting on Western media reports on nuclear theft in Russia, he said that "somebody wants to represent Russia as a kind of nuclear pit and a source of radioactive danger."

"We are perfectly well aware who wants that and what for—the aim is to take control of Russia's security system as a whole," he said.

Stepashin said that, during his Bonn visit, he would also discuss ways to carry out measures against illicit nuclear material trade indicated in a memorandum signed between the Russian and German security services in Moscow in August, and would meet German security chief Bernd Schmidbauer to consider joint efforts against organized crime and drug traffic.

Deal Drafted to Fight Radioactive Smuggling

LD1909130294 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1134 GMT 19 Sep 94

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Andrey Serov]

[Text] Moscow September 19 TASS—Secret services of Russia and Germany are drafting a bilateral agreement on cooperation in fighting organised crime, drug trafficking and the smuggling of radioactive materials. The document is to become the legal basis for promoting practical interaction of Russian and German experts in repelling the growing threat of criminal world expansion, according to Aleksandr Lopushinskiy, counsellor of the European department of the Russian Foreign Ministry.

He told TASS on Monday that the document may be signed already this year at the level of foreign ministers or heads of the involved agencies.

"The absence of such an agreement resulted in the recent unjustified ballyhoo over the confiscation by the German Customs of plutonium from air passengers arriving from Moscow", Lopushinskiy said.

As the secret services of the two countries were not authorised to quickly exchange opinions on the problem, an information vacuum emerged which gave grounds for sensational inventions in mass media, the counsellor said.

The document which has been drafted for a long time will help avoid such situations, Lopushinskiy said and stressed, that in his opinion, the plutonium scandal did not darken relations between Moscow and Bonn.

Russia To Defend Russian-Speakers in Baltics

LD1609202794 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1929 GMT 16 Sep 94

[Text] Russian will use all civilized methods to defend the interests of Russian-speakers in the Baltic states, including retired servicemen, Director of the Second European Department of the Russian Foreign Ministry Yuriy Fokin told Interfax.

Fokin stressed that during the meeting between Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev and Norwegian Foreign Minister Bjorn Godal on Thursday [15 September]

Kozyrev had focussed on the discriminatory character of the law on citizenship adopted by the Latvian parliament.

Fokin said Russia believes that it is high time for the Latvian and Estonian authorities to begin a dialogue with the Russian-speaking population.

Fokin stressed that Russia does not intend as yet to impose any economic sanctions against Latvia or Estonia. At the same time, he added that Russia is now reviewing possible measures to deal with the problem. Fokin said that at present, no single document unites all the proposals on this issue.

Cooperation Agreement Signed With Lithuania

LD1609170194 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1333 GMT 16 Sep 94

[Text] Deputy Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Krylov and Secretary of the Lithuanian Foreign Ministry Albinas Januska meeting in Vilnius have signed a protocol about cooperation between the two countries' foreign policy departments.

Speaking afterwards, Krylov said this would help create the basis of closer co-operation between the two ministries and consultations on bilateral and international issues.

For his part, Januska said the agenda included European security, the 1993 bilateral trade agreement and Russian shipments via Lithuanian territory to and from the western Russian exclave of Kaliningrad.

In an interview with Interfax, Krylov said that Moscow's treatment of Lithuania as the most favored trading partner was not linked to the transit agreement and that it was up to Vilnius to decide what sort of rules it wants to impose on Russian shipments.

Januska said the text of a proposed agreement, yet to be approved by the government, would be handed over to his Russian counterpart. He said his country had already consulted Britain, Sweden, Denmark and other countries on the substance of transit regulations and that it would be right to consult Moscow as well.

Krylov meets President Algirdas Brazauskas later in the day on Friday.

Shumeyko, Danish Minister Discuss Kaliningrad Projects

LD1609181294 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1541 GMT 16 Sep 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Taras Lariokhin]

[Text] Copenhagen September 16 TASS—Chairman of the Russian Federation Council Vladimir Shumeyko, who has come to Denmark to attend the 92nd session of the interparliamentary union, met here today Danish Minister for Housing and Nordic and Baltic Cooperation Flemming Kofog-Svendsen to discuss international cooperation projects for the Russian Kaliningrad region.

Shumeyko informed the minister of the Russian president's decree to turn the Kaliningrad region into a free economic zone. The Russian side is interested in making the Kaliningrad region a "Russian peace gates in the Baltics," he said.

A plan for Kaliningrad regional development will turn the region into a unique transportation knot in the European center. Military facilities are being conversed, and the Baltiisk deep-water military port may process civilian cargo in future.

Shumeyko suggested to hold an international conference on development of the Kaliningrad region and Baltic cooperation. The Danish minister supported the initiative and expressed the hope it will be supported by other states-members of the Nordic council.

Shumeyko also dwelt on de-militarization of the Kaliningrad region. He said that the region is quickly reducing local troops. Some time later the region will have a fleet and 26,000 servicemen. The troops' presence threatens to no one and is not directed against any state, stressed Shumeyko.

The negotiations focused on Russian-Danish cooperation, including the construction of a Danish village, a settlement for Russian servicemen in the Leningrad region. Denmark has allocated 50 million kroner for this purpose.

Kofor-Svendsen described the negotiations as very successful. Denmark, same as other European nations, is interested in the involvement of the Kaliningrad region into broad international cooperation, the minister told ITAR-TASS. We have offered the Nordic council to allocate 50 million kronor for the development of Baltic cooperation, including that with the Kaliningrad region.

Yeltsin 'Satisfied' With Recent Efforts on Abkhazia

LD1709150794 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1437 GMT 17 Sep 94

[By ITAR-TASS special correspondent Vladimir Gondusov]

[Text] Sukhumi September 17 TASS—Russian Defence Minister Pavel Grachev left Sukhumi for Sochi on Saturday [17 September] afternoon to meet Russian President Boris Yeltsin who is currently on rest. They will discuss the Georgian-Abkhazian problem in more detail, according to Grachev.

Yeltsin is satisfied with the recent efforts to settle the conflict in Abkhazia, Grachev told the press referring to a telephone conversation he had with the president earlier today.

Russian Defence Minister arrived in the Black Sea region earlier this week to mediate talks between Georgia and Abkhazia on refugees' return to the latter country. Before leaving for Sochi, he participated in today's meeting between Abkhazian Leader Vladislav Ardzinba and Georgian Defence Minister Valiko Nadibaidze.

Touching upon the latest results of the talks, Grachev said refugees' return to Abkhazia's Gali region will begin soon if Georgian military equipment is timely withdrawn from the Kodor gorge. However, this will require "additional measures", he noted. The materiel which cannot be withdrawn from the gorge will be destroyed there with the help of Russian military experts, Russian defence minister said.

The sides of the tripartite meeting have heard a report by Army Major General Vasiliy Yakushev who is in command of the allied peace-keeping forces in the region. It was decided that another six peacekeeping posts will be added to the existing 33 ones, and their location was also specified.

Generally describing the situation around Russian peacekeepers, Grachev said all Georgian-Abkhazian problems are to fully be solved during a period of the Russian blue helmets' stay in the region.

Abkhazian leader Vladislav Ardzinba is also satisfied with the talks. He said they were constructive and gave grounds for confidence that ways to solve the problems would be found, and terms of refugees' return would be agreed upon.

Army's Peacekeeping Functions in Abkhazia Defined

MM1609164594 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 16 Sep 94 p 3

[Report by Vitaliy Denisov and Petr Karapetyan under the "Postscript" rubric: "Refugees Now Reckon They'll Be Home Within Hours, Not Days, But 7,000 Abkhazian Militiamen Are Ready To Welcome Them With Bullets"]

[Text] The murder of two Russian officers in the area of the population center of Nabakevi is being used in both Sukhumi and Tbilisi for the purposes of a slanging match. The Abkhazian Prosecutor's Office has instituted criminal proceedings; no serious investigation has been carried out yet, but the Ekvaya brothers have already been charged. It is claimed that they are members of a Georgian armed opposition group based in Galskiy Rayon.

Tbilisi reacted to this instantly. State Minister Givi Lominadze, chairman of the provisional committee for the state of emergency in Western Georgia, stated the following: "The Abkhazian separatists' attempt to accuse the Georgian side of this murder is absurd. It benefits not a single Georgian today—from the republic leadership down to refugees from Abkhazia—to complicate relations with the Russian leadership and the Russian peacemaking forces." Incidentally, Georgian leaders are also making far more binding statements. Eduard Shevardnadze and Defense Minister Vardiko Nadibaidze state that they were ready as early as the morning of 14 September to send 800 refugees across the Inguri. Forty busses and other vehicles were ready to roll, and the refugees were only waiting for the order.

The situation is pretty serious, you will agree. The refugees now reckon that they will be home within hours, not days, but 7,000 Abkhazian militiamen have been moved up to Galskiy Rayon. Sukhumi has put its armed formations on red alert. The optimism of Lieutenant General Vardiko Nadibaidze, who has issued assurances that the process of returning the refugees will start 17 September in any event (!?), is particularly difficult to understand. The statements of Jaba Ioseliani, vice premier of the Georgian Government, that Russia's peacemaking forces should assume...policing functions seem specially alarming.

You get the impression that Tbilisi is concerned with only one thing: How it can dispatch the refugees as quickly as possible, while what happens afterwards is a secondary issue. It is unclear why Tbilisi should suddenly gamble on a strong-arm solution of the problem. Have people tried to reach agreement with anyone about anything? But such questions are resolved at the highest level, and a reminder of this has been issued by the Russian Foreign Ministry, which has denied the report that a treaty on the return of refugees was concluded with Georgia 12 September. Russia intends to continue acting solely within the bounds of accords and advocates a gradual and peaceful resolution of the Georgian-Abkhazian conflict, of which the process of returning refugees forms an integral part. The Russian peacemaking forces' guidelines are quite clearly defined: They are to maintain peace and protect the population against violence. There is no question, nor can there be, of any policing functions.

Yeltsin Welcomes Armenian-Azeri Ceasefire Accord

LD1909085494 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0826 GMT 19 Sep 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Moscow September 19 TASS—President Boris Yeltsin confirmed on Monday that Russia is ready to promote the establishment of peace between Armenia and Azerbaijan.

In a statement distributed by his press service Yeltsin welcomed the results of the talks between Azerbaijani President Heydar Aliyev and his Armenian counterpart Levon Ter-Petrosyan held in Moscow on September 8-9.

"An armistice has been ensured which the conflicting sides pledged to observe until a political agreement is concluded", Yeltsin said and added "progress in most difficult problems of the settlement has been reached. Naturally, transition to peace will demand mutual concessions. A real possibility emerged to ensure a decisive breakthrough".

The president stressed that Russia "not only waits for that, but will render all-round cooperation to ensure a just and lasting peace in Transcaucasia".

Yeltsin, Grachev Confer on Foreign Affairs

LD1809114494 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1104 GMT 18 Sep 94

[Text] Sochi September 18 ITAR-TASS—Russian President Boris Yeltsin, Prime Minister Victor Chernomyrdin and Defence Minister Pavel Grachev met in Sochi today, according to the press secretary of the Russian president, Vyacheslav Kostikov.

Yeltsin, Chernomyrdin and Grachev exchanged views on a wide range of international problems, including the situation in Haiti, Tajikistan and some other parts of the world.

The defence minister briefed the president and the prime minister on the results of the joint Russian-American exercises in Totsk and on his inspection tour of the armed forces units in the Moscow Military District.

Also today, President Yeltsin had a separate meeting with the defence minister. According to Vyacheslav Kostikov, the defence minister reported on the fulfillment of the president's instructions for talks with Georgian leader Eduard Shevardnadze and Abkhaz leader Vladislav Ardzinba on the settlement of the Georgian-Abkhaz conflict. According to the press secretary, Yeltsin was satisfied with the results of the talks.

The Russian president is scheduled to meet the leaders of Georgia and Abkhazia for talks on Monday, September 19 in Sochi.

Chernyshev Optimistic on Tajik Cease-fire Agreement

LD1809163394 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1547 GMT 18 Sep 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Oleg Kuzmin]

[Text] Tehran, 18 Sep—The agreement on a provisional cease-fire and an end to other hostile actions in Tajikistan, signed in Tehran by the heads of the government and oppostion delegations, is of great significance; although, the opposition still intends to boycott the coming presidential elections and referendum on the constitution. Albert Chernyshev, Russian deputy foreign minister, said this in an interview with an ITAR-TASS correspondent on the eve of the signing of the document.

Evidently the opposition will not consider itself bound by the cease-fire agreement after it expires; however, it will be difficult for them to renew military actions for moral reasons, the Russian diplomat continued. Neither the Tajik population nor the world community would accept this step that could lead to the opposition losing its authority.

Chernyshev particularly stressed that the agreement achieved in Tehran must mean the end of provocations on the Tajik-Afghan border, thus making the tasks of the Russian border troops easier. It is very important that both sides observe it strictly; although, there are doubts whether all the field commanders are under the complete control of the leadership of the Islamic Rebirth Movement.

The deputy minister noted that although it was not possible to achieve any agreements in regard to a political settlement of the problem, both sides intend to continue their dialogue during the third round of official inter-Tajik talks in Islamabad. The level of trust between the two sides is not yet high, but it rose in Tehran and it should be guarded and increased.

Chernyshev appraised highly the policy of the government delegation which, on the one hand, firmly defended Dushanbe's line, but on the other, was sufficiently flexible. The opposition also withdrew some of its demands which allowed agreement to be reached.

In Chernyshev's opinion, the way out of the present situation lies through a rapprochement of the positions of the two opposing sides, who for the time being have different views of the situation which has arisen.

Baykonur Agreement May be Signed in Sep

LD1609192194 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1602 GMT 16 Sep 94

[Text] The heads of government of Russia and Kazakhstan are likely to sign an agreement on Moscow's leasing Baykonur space center before the end of September.

Well-informed sources in the Russian space agency told Interfax that Kazakhstan's and Russia's experts, during the talks in Moscow on September 14-16, coordinated the final text of an agreement. The draft agreement will be submitted for the consideration of the two countries' governments.

The source said that the draft document is fully in line with the conditions of the bilateral agreement signed in March by the presidents, Boris Yeltsin and Nursultan Nazarbayev.

As it was envisaged by the agreement, Russia will get the right to handle the center throughout 20 years to come, beginning from 1994 and with the right to extend the agreement for another 10 years. The lease will cost to Russian taxpayers $115 million, as it was planned.

The agreement determines the status of the Russian military-space forces at the space center and in the neighboring Leninsk town and specifies the issues of financing the center.

The Baykonur space center, which after the collapse of the Soviet Union became to be owned by Kazakhstan, is the largest space center in the world. It is practically fully used by the Russian military- space forces in the interests of the Russian Defense Ministry and the international space program of the Russian space agency. In Baykonur there are all operating launching pads for the carrier-rocket Proton used to put satellites weighing up to 2.5 tonnes into the geostationary orbit.

Russia To Give Palestinians Police Equipment, Training

LD1609181094 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1517 GMT 16 Sep 94

[From the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature: Reports by diplomatic correspondents Aleksandr Korzun, Igor Porshnev, Yevgeniy Terekhov, and others]

[Text] Russia will hand over as a gift to the Palestinian police 45 armored personnel carriers and will train free of charge a small group of policemen, Igor Ivanov, First Deputy Russian Foreign Minister, told a briefing on Friday after his talks with the Palestinian delegation led by PLO leader's international affairs aide Zuhdy Terzy.

The Russian diplomat said that at the talks the two sides discussed issues of bilateral relations, as well as steps Russia could take to help Palestine to organize self-government.

Ivanov said that he had met in Moscow on Thursday [15 September] night with PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat who spoke highly about Russia's role in resolving the inter-Tajik conflict.

The Russian diplomat said that the Palestinian leadership follows attentively the development of the conflict in Tajikistan, which, according to 'Arafat, may go outside the Central Asian republic.

A senior Russian diplomat told Interfax on Friday that at the meeting between Ivanov and 'Arafat, who made on Thursday a stopover at the Vnukovo-2 airport en route from Tashkent, the two sides discussed Russia's possible contribution into the creation of Palestinian national structures in the zone of the autonomy.

The diplomat said that 'Arafat voiced a deep interest that Russia with due account of its broad possibilities, took an active part in the creation of different development programs in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank, including in such spheres as the energy and water supplies.

Concrete programs, he said, will be submitted for consideration of relevant Russian departments and organizations.

The diplomat said that the two sides also discussed further progress of the Middle East peace process, including Russia's efforts in terms of helping the Palestinians and Israelis in the earliest reaching of final agreements to implement the Declaration on principles of provisional political self-government in the Palestinian autonomy.

The source said that under discussion were also issues of how to hold elections of the Palestinian legislative council.

The diplomat said that the Palestinian delegation arrived in Moscow to discuss issues of the Russian-Palestinian cooperation. Today's meeting with the first deputy Russian foreign minister was devoted to the package of problems of economic cooperation, as well as Russia's help in the creation of the police force on the territory of the Palestinian autonomy.

The source said that during the April meeting between Russian President Yeltsin and Yasir 'Arafat in Moscow the two sides agreed that Russia will help the Palestinians in forming their security and police force.

In line with the Russian president's decision there were talks in Moscow on Russia's concrete contribution, said the diplomat. Russia will supply uniforms and ammunition for the Palestinian police force.

These problems were discussed with the first deputy Russian foreign minister and at the talks the Palestinian delegation held with the Rosvooruzheniye company.

U.S.-North Korean Talks Viewed

SK1809013494 Moscow Radio Moscow in Korean 1200 GMT 17 Sep 94

[Commentary by (Vladimir Koryilov) from the "Today's World" program]

[Text] U.S. and DPRK experts held talks on Pyongyang's nuclear issue in Berlin. They discussed a broad range of technical problems regarding the conversion of the DPRK's graphite-moderated reactor system into a light-water reactor system.

Station commentator (Vladimir Koryilov) writes:

Light-water reactors cannot produce plutonium, which is necessary to manufacture nuclear warheads. Until now, Western countries have constantly expressed their suspicion that Pyongyang has been developing nuclear weapons. The DPRK will completely free itself from the suspicion of its nuclear weapons development when it can make the appropriate guarantees.

The DPRK's proposal for its introduction of a light-water reactor system can be an important announcement [podo] that removes the suspicion. However, all problems are not being solved smoothly.

The DPRK is recognizing [injong] that the expense for the provision of light-water reactors, which is estimated to be $4 billion, will fall entirely on the United States. However, the United States is not the only country that is interested in the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula. Accordingly, Washington is trying to shift [ijon] the burden to other countries, including the ROK.

After the DPRK-U.S. expert-level negotiations in Berlin, the head of the DPRK delegation stated: We are looking for a country whose light-water reactor model can be introduced. Russia and Germany are included in the candidate list.

Russia has already announced its willingness to participate in resolving the North Korean nuclear issue and to provide technology and necessary facilities for building light-water reactors. The DPRK has also showed its interest in the transfer of Russian technology.

However, it is still difficult to conclusively predict how the situation regarding the nuclear issue will develop. Safety problems are not the only ones to be solved. A solution to the nuclear problem would clear the issue of holding North-South peace talks. DPRK-U.S. high-level talks will resume in Geneva on 23 September, and many things depend on the talks.

Role in Asian Space Programs Viewed

LD1909084894 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0801 GMT 19 Sep 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Aleksandr Romanov]

[Text] Beijing September 19 TASS—"Russia regards the Asia- Pacific region as very important. It can cooperate in space studies with countries of the region, and many countries can learn a lot from Russia in this area. Russia is prepared for this cooperation in the framework of international law, on fair and balanced terms in conditions of competition", Viktor Kozlov, a representative of the Russian Space Agency, told ITAR-TASS.

Kozlov, the chief of a department in the Russian Space Agency, participates in a conference on the use of space equipment to promote development in the Asia-Pacific region. The conference organised by the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) opened in Beijing on Monday. For the first time such a forum is held at a ministerial level.

Only 15 out of the 48 countries of the Asia-Pacific region, inhabited by around 57 per cent of the globe's population, have national space agencies or implement national space programmes. As many as 30 national centres for long-distance probing were set up in the Asia-Pacific countries in the past two decades. As many as nine large ground stations have been built to receive information from satellites for the spotting of mineral resources. Some 30 permanently operating tracking stations receive information about the state of the environment. Twelve countries of the region use satellite communications systems, and only four countries sent their citizens on space flights.

During the conference to last for four days experts will discuss the development of space equipment and the use of space technology toward rational utilisation of natural resources and environmental protection, will discuss the strategy and mechanisms of regional cooperation in the uses of space equipment, action plans and other problems.

The guidelines adopted at the first stage of the conference will be referred for the endorsement by ministers and heads of the delegations, who will hold concluding meetings on September 23-24.

Supreme Court Delegation Visit To Canada Described

LD1609203194 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1953 GMT 16 Sep 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Nikolay Setunskiy]

[Text] Ottawa September 16 TASS—A visit of the Russian Supreme Court's delegation to Canada has laid down fundamentals for cooperation between Russian and Canadian highest court instances.

The visit enabled the delegation to "acquaint with the Canadian court system, its functioning, peculiarities of legal procedure and the jury institute," Supreme Court Chairman Vyacheslav Lebedev told ITAR-TASS. "Our interest to the jury is caused by the introduction of this institute in nine Russian regions. We have also acquainted ourselves with the Canadian court system and corresponding legislation. Russia is so far lacking a law to regulate the court system," he said.

"We informed the Canadian colleagues of the elaboration of this law. The president will submit it to the State Duma in November. We wanted to learn how the Canadian court system protects the rights and freedoms of citizens, which is the supreme goal of justice, its quickness and efficiency," said Lebedev.

"We also told the Canadian side about the Russian court-legal reform, the laws and bills. We discussed problems of justice, including the consolidation of court authority, independence of judges, ways to make our court system maximum simple and efficient to protect the rights and freedoms of citizens. The latter appeal to the court more frequently, which means they believe in court as a protector from state power abuses," said the Supreme Court chairman.

"The Canadian colleagues agree with our opinion that we should have permanent professional cooperation to exchange information of law-making and court practice. The Canadian side was surprised with our report on the Russian court developments, including the adoption of a law on judge status, their independence and social protection," said Lebedev.

"Both sides are willing to develop cooperation. Our official invitation to send a delegation of the Canadian Supreme Court to Russia on a return visit was taken with gratitude," he added.

Today the Russian delegation will leave home.

Political Issues

Yeltsin To Address Nation 22 September

LD1709080694 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 0600 GMT 17 Sep 94

[Text] According to information received from the president's administration, on 22 September Boris Yeltsin will make a television address to the Russian people.

The address will be timed to coincide with the first anniversary of the events of September-October.

According to available information, the president's speech will be basically devoted to the implementation of the Social Accord Treaty.

Observers think that the address will show how likely it is that a new coalition government will be formed in the fall with the participation of representatives of the opposition.

Composition of Presidential Council Announced

LD1609195894 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1848 GMT 16 Sep 94

[Text] Russian President Boris Yeltsin issued a decree confirming the composition of the Presidential Council, a consultative body under the president. Among the 28 members of the Presidential Council there are renown legal expert Sergey Alekseyev, historian Dmitriy Volkogonov, State Duma deputy Yegor Gaydar, Avtovaz Joint Stock Company General Director Vladimir Kadannikov, political commentator of Izvestiya newspaper Otto Latsis, Moscow Mayor Yuriy Luzhkov, St. Petersburg Mayor Anatoliy Sobchak, Secretary of the Russian Union of Journalists Alla Yaroshinskaya, artists, scientists and political scientists.

Experts said that the Presidential Council, in existence for about two years, went through a number of changes. The heads of several federation constituent members were put on the council, in particular Kabardino-Balkarian President Valeriy Kokov, the heads of the Irkutsk and Tula regions Yuriy Nozhikov and Nikolay Sevryugin. Experts said they believe that the participation of these people in the council will help focus more attention on problems faced by the republics and regions within the composition of Russia during discussions of key issues tied to Russia's social and economic development.

Further on Council's Composition

LD1709041794 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1509 GMT 16 Sep 9

[Text] Moscow, 16 Sep—The press service of the president of the Russian Federation reports that Boris Yeltsin has issued a decree today on the new Presidential Council with the following composition:

- S.S.Alekseyev—chairman of the council of the research center for civil law attached to the president of the Russian Federation
- S.E Blagovolin—deputy director of the institute of world economics and international relations of the Russian Academy of Science
- V.K. Volkov—director of the Institute of Slavonic and Balkan Studies of the Russian Academy of Science
- D.A. Volkogonov—Federation Council deputy
- E.T. Gaydar—Federation Council deputy
- D.A. German—writer
- A.M. Yemelyanov—president-rector of the Russian academy of the state service attached to the Russian president
- M.A. Zakharov—artistic director of the "Lenkom" theater
- V.V. Karddannikov—director general of the "AvtoVAZ" company
- C.A. Karaganov—deputy director of the European Institute of the Russian Academy of Science
- Y.F. Karyakin—senior research fellow of the Institute for Comparative Political Studies of the Russian Academy of Sciences
- O.V. Kiselev—chairman of the board of directors of the "Mosekspo" joint-stock company
- S.A. Kovalyov—Federation Council deputy
- V.M. Kokov—president of the Republic of Kabarda-Balkaria
- O.R. Latsis—political commentator for IZVESTIYA
- R.Z. Lifshits—head researcher at the Institute of State and Law at Russian Academy of Sciences
- Y.M. Luzhkov—mayor of Moscow
- A.M. Migranyan—head researcher at the institute of international
- economic and political research at the Russian Academy of Sciences
- Y.A. Nozhikov—head of Irkutsk Oblast administration
- E.A. Pain—head of analytical research at the analytical center under the Russian Federation president
- Y.A. Ryzhov—extraordinary and plenipotentiary ambassador of the Russian Federation to France
- A.M. Salmin—director of the center of political technology
- N.V. Sevryugin—head of Tula Oblast administration
- A.A. Sergeyev—chairman of the Independent Miners' Union
- L.V. Smirnyagin—head of analytical research at the analytical center under the Russian Federation president
- A.A. Sobchak—mayor of St. Petersburg
- M.O. Chudakova—professor at the A.M. Gorkiy Institute for Literature
- A.A. Yaroshinskaya—secretary of the Russian Federation Union of Journalists

Yeltsin, Chernomyrdin Meet in Sochi

LD1709100294 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0949 GMT 17 Sep 94

[Text] Moscow September 17 TASS—A working meeting between Russian President Boris Yeltsin, who is on vacation in Sochi, and Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin, who arrived in Sochi to meet the president, has begun. The prime minister and the president will spend a whole working day together, the Russian president's press service told ITAR-TASS.

They are going to discuss a wide range of issues of home and foreign policy, coordinate plans of work of the president and the government for this autumn and determine priorities of cooperation with the Federal Assembly. The president and the prime minister will analyse the current state of affairs in the economy and social sphere and consider measures to control the situation in spots of tension.

Discuss Economy, Tax Law

LD1709162294 Moscow NTV in Russian 1500 GMT 17 Sep 94

[Video report by correspondent Mikhail Osokin with recorded remarks by Russian President Boris Yeltsin and Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin]

[Text] [Osokin] It looks as if President Yeltsin is not going to have any rest this time either. Meanwhile, Prime Minister Chernomyrdin, who has already arrived in Sochi, has discussed the state of economy with President Yeltsin. According to Chernomyrdin, a number of matters had to be discussed and it looks as if reforms are going to transform into a new stage.

[Yeltsin] First of all, it is the securities market. We need to expand it quite a bit now. Really, this work will equal the work we have done on privatization, but in the future its significance might turn out to be even greater. A draft law on social matters has also been drawn up, but after the exchange of opinions that took place today we decided to do some more work on it, and then to hand it over for signing. The third big thing is...

[Chernomyrdin, interrupting] Boris Nikolayevich, taxes.

[Yeltsin] Yes, taxes, and now over to Viktor Stepanovich.

[Chernomyrdin] We have now had a look at a law that was drawn up and it looks as if Boris Nikolayevich will sign it in the near future, possibly today or tomorrow. I mean the law on taxes. We are going to reduce a number of taxes on certain types of products and raise taxes on some other products. This is an evolutionary process. It needs to be regulated all the time. Also an edict on private investments. It is very important for us. Not only on attracting foreign investments—I am repeating this because there have been a lot of discussions on it—they [foreign investments] are important, but it is just as important to attract our own domestic investments.

[Osokin] It has also been said at the meeting that serious work is now being done in the sphere of economics, which requires some adjustments. The president has also mentioned one interesting point—they have discussed the appointment of someone from the State Duma to the government, but no details have been announced so far. Judging by certain things said by the prime minister and the president they decided not just to work but also to rest straight after their meeting with the journalists.

[Yeltsin] [video cuts to Yeltsin in the middle of a sentence] ...it is impossible. We are going to go that way straight after the meeting.

Speculations on Chernomyrdin Resignation Aired

LD1609183394

[Editorial Report] Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1625 GMT on 16 September carries the "Details" program presented by Sergey Dorenko.

Dorenko says that "certain experts" are predicting that Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin will resign or be fired soon. Dorenko continues: "Predictions that Chernomyrdin will be made to resign are linked to expectations either that inflation will jump in autumn because of money being pumped into the economy to solve the nonpayments problem, or that payments will be delayed due to a financial squeeze." "Alternatively, the reason could be public discontent if the government digs in and stops handing out money to industry to make the books look good. Whatever happens, the anticipated change of power in the White House will be down to financial policy."

Dorenko reports that some regional leaders were at the Finance Ministry today asking for money. The only one willing to be filmed was Moscow Mayor Yuriy Luzhkov, who said the ministry owed the city 292 billion rubles and he was being forced to borrow the money to keep governance and industry from grinding to a halt in the capital.

Dorenko concludes: "Luzhkov denied claims that he is getting ready to take the prime minister's job after the latter's resignation in autumn as predicted by certain experts."

Yeltsin Not To 'Surrender' Chernomyrdin

LD1609175294 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1602 GMT 16 Sep 94

[Text] Russian President's Press Secretary Vyacheslav Kostikov denied rumors that President Boris Yeltsin intends to "surrender" the government led by Viktor Chernomyrdin this autumn.

Kostikov said in an interview with Interfax today that there are no grounds for any talk of discord between the Russian president and the government. At the same time, he said that there is some lack of coordination in decision- making, which some people view as confrontation.

Kostikov stressed that "coordinated actions of the president and the premier help to maintain a normal working regime in the country."

Kostikov said he does not believe that there will be any "autumn explosion" about which the opposition has been speaking all summer. He said he believes that the efforts of Rutskoy, Zyuganov and Lapshin have failed. Kostikov said that the opposition has not succeeded with its efforts in the provinces. People there, he said, are getting more and more used to the reality of reforms and are learning to benefit from the economic independence which they receive.

Borovoy Predicts Fall of Government This Year

LD1909122694 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1042 GMT 19 Sep 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Yevgeniy Tkachenko]

[Text] Chelyabinsk September 19 TASS—Leader of the Russian Party of Economic Freedom Konstantin Borovoy predicted on Monday that the government will fall already this year and said his party will take part in future parliamentary and presidential polls.

"The Russian Government in its current composition will not survive until the new year, otherwise it will cost the society too much", Borovoy told a press conference in Chelyabinsk where he arrived on his election campaign.

"The government only fights inflation and cannot flexibly work in market economy conditions", he added.

The economic freedom party did not participate in previous elections and the next polls "will be a test ground" for it, according to Borovoy.

"We shall do everything to keep fascists away from power", he said and added that there are many "real candidates" to win the post of the president.

Among them, according to him, are Yegor Gaydar, Sergey Shakhray, Grigoriy Yavlinskiy. Certain chances are enjoyed by Aleksandr Rutskoy, Gennadiy Zyuganov and Vladimir Zhirinovskiy, he added.

Borovoy said his party is supported in 15 Russian regions.

Rumors of Government Reshuffle 'Groundless'

LD1909130394 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1250 GMT 19 Sep 94

[Text] Moscow, 19 Sep (ITAR-TASS)—Reports by a number of media sources that deputy prime ministers Aleksandr Shokhin, Sergey Shakhray, and Aleksandr Zaveryukha and also head of the government press service Valentin Sergeyev are planning to resign are entirely groundless, ITAR-TASS was told today by the Russian Federation president's press secretary Vyacheslav Kostikov.

In an interview on NTV on Sunday, the president's chief of staff, Sergey Filatov, described as "without foundation" rumors of reshuffles in the government and Boris Yeltsin's inner circle.

Filatov Refutes Rumors of Reshuffle

LD1709201894 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1950 GMT 17 Sep 94

[Text] Moscow September 17 TASS—Presidential Chief of Staff Sergey Filatov labelled as groundless rumors about planned reshuffling of the Russian Government and a rearrangement of the presidential staff, especially concerning those close to Yeltsin, the independent TV company NTV said on Saturday.

Filatov also refuted information about a forthcoming meeting between Yeltsin and Chechen leader Dzhokhar Dudayev, which was released by the Moscow-based daily "NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA". He said "this is another attempt to spread a rumour and watch what will happen". "I have no idea about the origin of such information", he added.

Filatov gave this interview after a session of the Council for Staff Policy at the Russian president which was held on Saturday. On agenda were the implementation of the latest presidential decree on public service and the Russian Academy of Public Service Policies and By-Laws.

Experts Predict 'Social Explosions' in Fall, Winter

LD1809095494 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 0600 GMT 18 Sep 94

[Text] Russian Labor Minister Gennadiy Melikyan rules out any serious social explosions this autumn or winter. He thinks that although the socio-economic situation in the country is difficult there are some positive tendencies. Melikyan said people these days have no desire to strike or to express protest, still less to fight at barricades.

A group of independent Moscow experts thinks differently. They prepared a report which says that social explosions are most likely to happen this fall. They will take place in 11 areas: in Arkhangelsk, Vladimir, Ivanovo, Kirov, Pskov, Penza, and Yaroslavl regions, and in the republics of Adygeya, Kalmykia, Mordovia, and Udmurtiya.

Minister Sees No Reason for Upheaval

LD1709152694 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1242 GMT 17 Sep 94

[Text] There are no serious reasons for social tremors in Russia in the autumn and winter of 1994, Minister for Labour Gennadiy Melikyan told Interfax.

For all the complexity of the current socioeconomic situation, positive tendencies are making themselves felt. The Russian citizens' incomes are growing faster than prices, and the rate of differentiation between social groups has slowed down. People do not want to hold strikes, or express protest, or to go to the barricades, he said.

However, individual anti-government manifestations by certain forces and trade unions are quite possible. Melikyan also believes that sober-minded opposition leaders and economists are well aware that this might be their last battle because sharp drops in the population's living standards are unlikely.

Figures Dismiss Yeltsin Misconduct in Germany

MM1909115594 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 17 Sep 94 p 1

[Editorial Office report under "Talk of the Town" rubric: "Did He or Didn't He? That Is the Question..."]

[Text] In recent days the Russian press has again touched upon an old "sensitive" problem. Details have been leaked from Kremlin offices regarding the scandalous behavior of the president during his recent official visit to Germany, as a result of which staffers from among the president's closest entourage suffered (morally and even physically!). Although, as a rule, such rumors do not have a specific origin, the complete lack of any type of efforts on the part of the presidential administration to refute and nip in the bud the dissemination of such information does, however, inspire suspicion.

KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA has already declared its readiness to make newsprint available to all interested persons for the purposes of issuing a reproof. We are waiting. At the same time, we have addressed people who know the president, asking for a comment on the situation.

Mikhail Poltoranin, State Duma deputy, brother-in-arms: "It's nonsense. Boris Nikolayevich is not capable of such a thing. He is the type of guy who wouldn't hurt a fly."

Pavel Voshchanov, former press secretary to B.N. Yeltsin: "In my time as the president's press secretary nothing like this ever happened. Not once did I see or hear anything of the sort about Boris Nikolayevich Yeltsin, for all that I am critical of him nowadays."

Sergey Yushenkov, State Duma deputy, brother-in-arms: "In my view, this does not warrant any comment (he smiles). Very many rumors of all descriptions are rife. So why pay so much attention to this one? I know Kostikov, Korzhakov, and Yeltsin very well. I cannot believe that this is anywhere near the truth."

Deputy leader of the Presidential Staff Protocol Service, who was in Germany during B.N. Yeltsin's visit: "There was an official program for our delegation's stay in Germany. Everything passed off in accordance with it. On several occasions, the president behaved emotionally, and he made several unnecessary moves—he approached the military orchestra, he went up to a choir of young boys. But this is not a violation of protocol, and there is nothing criminal in this.

"When John Major came to visit us he even chatted to the crowd while he was in Nizhnyy Novgorod. And nothing. Naturally, there were some impulsive moments in our president's behavior, but they do not mean anything."

Kostikov Denies Press Reports on FCS

LD1609113794 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1040 GMT 16 Sep 94

[Text] Moscow, 16 Sep (ITAR-TASS)—Vyacheslav Kostikov, press secretary of the RF [Russian Federation] president, issued the following statement today:

"Press reports alleging that the Federal Counterintelligence Service (FCS) is about to be reorganized or even disbanded are complete speculation and they are not correct.

"I have been authorized by B.N. Yeltsin to state that the Russian president will continue to pursue his consistent policy of strengthening the FSK. Believing that this service plays an important role in defending Russia's national interests, he will continue to give the FCS and its personnel the utmost support.

"The speculation over the counterintelligence service, which is an important instrument for the defense of Russian statehood and democracy, is extremely irresponsible."

Baturin Denies Yeltsin Plans for FCS Reforms

LD1609164694 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1616 GMT 16 Sep 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Tamara Zamyatina]

[Text] Moscow September 16 TASS—Russian presidential aide for national security Yuriy Baturin categorically denied reports published in the "TRUD" daily newspaper alleging that he was heading the preparation of a presidential decree on an overhaul of the Federal Counterintelligence Service.

In an interview with TASS today, Baturin said the paper's article only added more instability to the already-shaky situation which the country is currently going through and in which the Russian special services are operating.

The presidential aide also noted that "no expert group for the reformation of the Federal Counterintelligence Service has been formed under the admnistration of the president, and I do not head any structure with such doubtful aims."

Baturin expressed bewhilderment about the "informed" source, a "former security officer," whose information provided the basis for "TRUD's" article. "Even non-professionals are aware that the Counterintelligence Service simply has no investigation department, which is allegedly to be transferred to the Justice Ministry," he said.

The national security aide reported that he had repeatedly explained the mass media his point of view concerning problems of national security and the important role of the special services, especially counterintelligence, in ensuring the nation's safety.

Baturin, who is a co-author of the law on the mass media, expressed regret that some journalists do not make the necessary efforts to check the accuracy and truthfulness of information which they intend to publish and, in this specific case, that the author of the "TRUD" article did not turn to him or other specialists for explanations.

Counterintelligence Service 'No Threat to Democracy'

LD1709145294 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1242 GMT 17 Sep 94

[Text] Russian security chief Sergey Stepashin said the media's "gossip about a supposed new disbandment, division or reorganization of the Federal Counterintelligence Service" [FCS] had been launched by "those both within and outside our country who don't want a powerful security service."

The Federal Counterintelligence Service, which he heads, "takes it easy," Stepashin told Interfax. But such stories in the media do put pressure on the FCS and are a hindrance in its work, he said. Such rumors come from those who "look for sensation and try to attract a new lot of readers by various kinds of publications, when direct lies are something that attracts some of the mass media fans too," the FCS chief said.

"Unfortunately, some politicians in Russia take the same view of the present-day Federal Counterintelligence Service as they do of that notorious reactionary KGB, namely that it poses a threat to democracy, to democratic and economic reforms," Stepashin continued. "But that is absolutely untrue," he said. "Our work is based on the Constitution and (relevant) laws. Therefore I can see no threat to democracy from the FCS."

President Boris Yeltsin is pursuing a firm policy to strengthen the service, Stepashin said citing a statement, issued on Friday, in which Yeltsin spokesman Vyacheslav Kostikov quotes the president as saying last May that "a powerful Russia needs powerful security services."

Recent presidential decrees, including those to raise pay for security personnel, confirm the government's interest in a stronger FCS, Stepashin said.

New FCS Special Operations Directorate Formed

LD1809093094 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0800 GMT 18 Sep 94

[Text] A special operations directorate has been set up under the Federal Counterintelligence Service [FCS]. It is headed by Dmitriy Gerasimov, who used to be the commanding officer of the Vympel special-purpose group, FCS director Sergey Stepashin told INTERFAX.

He said the new directorate will set up departments to carry out duties under Operation Nabat [Alarm]. Under a Russian Government order dated 30 July, this plan is designed to counter air terrorism in particular.

FCS Chief Stepashin on Chechnya Events

LD1709203194 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1700 GMT 17 Sep 94

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Excerpts] [Dmitriy Voskoboynikov] The situation in Chechnya worsened sharply today [17 September]. [passage omitted] On Friday, 24 hours before the beginning of active combat actions in Chechnya, I met Sergey Stepashin, director of the Federal Counterintelligence Service [FCS]. Like many other political figures he visited the INTERFAX agency recently, and in a rare television interview he gave his views on the development of the situation in Chechnya.

[Begin recording] [Voskoboynikov] Sergey Vladimirovich, you are probably the Russian political figure most informed on the situation in Chechnya. Are the statements made by representatives of the interim council and by Ruslan Khasbulatov that Dudayev's days are numbered justified?

[Stepashin] A good question. As far as being well informed.... [Stepashin pauses] I would not say that the days of Dudayev's regime are numbered. I would probably put it a bit differently. As for the situation in Chechnya today, including the activities of the opposition and of Dudayev himself, Chechnya is in the grips of a very deep crisis and has been for the past three years. Today it is extremely acute. That is probably how I would comment upon that question, but you can draw your own conclusion.

[Voskoboynikov] A few weeks ago one got the impression that Moscow decided to support the interim council headed by Umar Avturkhanov. Then Khasbulatov began to play a more active role. What strategy and tactics are you working out now? To what line have you decided to adhere?

[Stepashin] Well, what is meant by the name Moscow? On the whole, our official leadership and the Constitution of the Russian Federation, which was adopted on 12 December, confirms unequivocally that the Chechen Republic is an inalienable part of the Russian Federation. These are the tactics. We support all the forces of the Chechen Republic that are for genuine stabilization of the situation there—stabilization by peaceful, not military means, especially after the events in Argun.

[Voskoboynikov] According to some information, several emissaries of official Groznyy, spokesmen of Dudayev, are now in Moscow holding talks, or are trying to hold talks with officials, with a view to swaying them over to their side. Does that correspond to reality? Do you have such information?

[Stepashin] Yes, we do have such information, and it is not just a matter of emissaries of Dudayev's—incidentally, I do not see anything wrong with emissaries of Dudayev coming with concrete proposals—again within the framework of the Russian Federation. What is at issue is something different, and evidently we will raise that question today to our procuracy. According to our information, there are members of staff—I will not name them—of the relevant department of state security of Chechnya who are involved in direct recruitment work.

[Voskoboynikov] On the territory of the Russian Federation?

[Stepashin] No, I mean not only among officials and not as much as among officials, but direct work to recruit mercenaries. You know that Dudayev's troops.... [pauses] Incidentally, there were mercenaries who fought in Argun who had beaten the so-called war path in Abkhazia. Unfortunately, there were representatives of Lithuania and a number of other states. Well, these people are here in Moscow today, and we and the Ministry of Internal Affairs are carrying out joint measures to detain them once and for all. [end recording]

Spokesman Says FIS Not Active in Chechnya

LD1609175594 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1454 GMT 16 Sep 94

[From the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature: reports by diplomatic correspondents Aleksandr Korzun, Igor Porshnev, Yevgeniy Terekhov, and others]

[Text] The Russian Foreign Intelligence is not active inside the Chechen Republic, Russian Foreign Intelligence Service's press secretary Tatiana Samolis told Interfax Friday.

She said that whatever they said in Chechnya about the presence of the FIS there, this was out of the question because the service was to be active outside the Russian Federation while Chechnya is its part, whether this is to its liking or not.

Samolis emphasized that the service analyzed any foreign information having a bearing on Russia's security. She explained that as long as the Chechen Republic was part of Russia, the FIS kept an eye on what was going on there because those processes could threaten Chechnya or Russia as a whole.

Samolis said that the Foreign Intelligence Service was a structure engaged in assuring Russia's security and protection of its national interests. It is collecting outside Russia any information, political, economic, military, technological or ecological, that would help the country's leaders to know what is going on in the world and respond adequately to the events.

Samolis admitted the probability that the FIS could follow the activities of Chechens abroad.

She said that the FIS was collecting impartial information on Chechnya because deterioration of the situation there could create problems for Russia's national security.

Samolis emphasized that any trouble spot which is in the center of general attention attracts the interest of her service but this kind of work was not aimed at doing any harm to Chechnya. The FIS is likely to collect information enabling one to predict the events.

Samolis said that, once it broke away from the KGB, the foreign intelligence became an organization without politics or ideology. The service personnel do their best not to be used in the interests of any party or group.

Stepashin: Foreign Intelligence Active in Far East

LD1809104094 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0900 GMT 18 Sep 94

[Text] Sergey Stepashin, director of Russia's Federal Counterintelligence Service, told an INTERFAX correspondent that foreign special services have become increasingly active in Russia recently, including in the Far East. Stepashin said that foreign intelligence is gathering political, economic, and military and technological information in order to assess Russia's military potential. In the Far East, China and Japan's activities in this field have been noticed, the counterintelligence service director said.

Sergey Stepashin said North Korean intelligence has also been active in the Far East region, until recently when Russia took the necessary measures.

Yeltsin Decrees Constitution Day State Holiday

LD1909083394 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0757 GMT 19 Sep 94

[Text] Moscow, 19 Sep—From now on, the day Russia's new Constitution was adopted, 12 December, is to be a state holiday. The Russian Federation president's press service said that the president signed a decree today declaring 12 December Day of the Constitution of the Russian Federation.

Statute on Immigration Controls Prepared

MM1609130594 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 16 Sep 94 Weekend Edition p 5

[Unattributed report: "Controlled Entry and Exit"]

[Text] The Statute on Immigration Controls is aimed at stopping illegal migration to Russia by foreign citizens and individuals without citizenship.

The new statute's task is to stem the tide of illegal immigration.

The document on immigration controls has been prepared long and hard, even though the problem is a longstanding one. Russia did not turn overnight into an ever-expanding transit corridor through which refugees from Asia and Africa have tried and continue to try to get into the developed countries of West Europe and Scandinavia.

Russia acceded to the International Convention on the Status of Refugees two years ago. A basic criterion under the convention for working with people is that their lives should be in danger. Only in these circumstances can countries take in other citizens and look after them. The signing of the convention by Russia was more of a forced political step than a practical step. And subsequent events—the collapse of the USSR, the war in Somalia, and other world conflicts—have convincingly shown that there is no mechanism for us to implement the documents we have signed. Paradoxically we signed even though we lacked the very organ—a Federal Migration Service—responsible for our commitments.

Clearly, we should have acceded to the Convention on the Status of Refugees with a number of provisos—as Romania did. After all, nobody has resolved the main issue for working with refugees—the funding issue.

Under the convention, when people seeking asylum arrive at the border, they must immediately make known their desire for asylum, and work should begin with them straightaway. That is not the way that things have worked out here.... All of us—government, journalists, and the public—know the result. The Afghan and certain African students once accepted by the former Union are using our country as a temporary "hideaway" while they wait for a change in the situation at home or a possible move to other countries.

Now, following the signing of the "Statute on Immigration Controls," one of the first steps, according to Stanislav Petrunin, chief of the Federal Migration Service's Immigration Controls Organization Administration, will be to set up temporary housing centers for the immigrants, as required by the norms of civilized states. The people will be held there, given language training, and much else besides.

Our country is now approaching work with refugees on the basis of established practice. We, along with all of Europe, are concerned about the tide of uncontrolled migration. The conference of interior ministers held on this problem in Vienna three years ago elaborated general recommendations on "illegal" immigrants. Last year the Budapest conference resolved issues in its region. Our northern neighbors have resolved issues in their region. Now all countries (including Russia, of course) are facing up to the main issues—combating the smuggling of people and exchanging information on uncontrolled migration. The main thing is to conclude bilateral agreements on the return of third-country citizens. This is very serious. After all, when, say, an Ethiopian citizen enters Sweden illegally through Moscow, the Swedes simply return him to Moscow.

So far the Moscow City and Oblast governments have been unwilling to meet each other halfway when it comes to setting up and equipping centers to temporarily house immigrants and people without citizenship. Maritime Kray and St. Petersburg have already started this work.

Plan Drafted To Strengthen Federation, Public Accord

LD1809162194 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1302 GMT 18 Sep 94

[Text] A member of Russia's Presidential Council Leonid Smirniyagin feels that no part of the Russian Federation may be allowed to make unilateral moves to change its constitutional status.

Talking to a reporter for Interfax, Smirniyagin explained that "if a region decided, entirely on its own, to call itself a republic, it must first request the other constituent parts of the Russian Federation to support its decision."

That, according to Smirniyagin, was a provision of a draft plan for regional strategies drawn up for President Yeltsin by a group of experts, including Smirniyagin and the chief of the President's expert team Aleksandr Livshits.

According to Smirniyagin, the experts aimed "to strengthen the federation and realize the idea of public accord."

Smirniagin hoped that Boris Yeltsin would appreciate their efforts. Yeltsin and those who worked on the plan saw eye to eye on the key issues of federalism, he said.

Debate on Federation Bill Deferred

MM1609100794 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 16 Sep 94 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Question of Admission of New Russian Federation Components Withdrawn As Premature"]

[Text] The draft law on the admission to and formation within Russia of a new Federation component was removed from the agenda at yesterday's Russian Government session since it is premature to raise the matter.

"To examine that draft law today," Premier Viktor Chernomyrdin said on opening the routine session of the cabinet of ministers, "means evoking many questions to which there are no answers as yet in the current political situation." For his part, the planned keynote speaker on this issue, Khazhbikar Bokov, deputy minister for nationalities affairs and regional policy, stressed that the draft law, which was carefully prepared with the participation of the State Duma, is nonetheless eliciting a host of criticisms. What is more, to discuss it at present may "initiate the negative processes that can be observed in Russia today. For instance, the creation of other components on the basis of a Federation component."

Nevertheless, as Viktor Chernomyrdin stressed, while removing from discussion the draft law "On the Procedure for the Admission to and Formation Within the Russian Federation of a New Russian Federation Component," the relevant State Duma committees will continue to work on it in the light of the criticisms and views voiced by the ministries and departments, but "with the aim of future regional stability." At the same time he noted that this document must not vanish from the political horizon since it arises directly from the country's constitution and also the Russian Federation president's message to the Federal Assembly.

The cabinet of ministers then began discussing the next items on the agenda—two federal programs for the development of a Russian system for seismological observation and earthquake prediction and the development of the agro-industrial complex in central Russian oblasts.

Tula Nominates Gen Lebed for President

MK1609113094 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 16 Sep 94 p 1

[NG report under the "In Brief" rubric: "Lebed Nominated for President"]

[Text] The public of Tula have set up an initiative group to nominate Aleksandr Lebed, commander of the 14th Army, for the Russian presidency. They cited as a formal reason for so doing the fact that the general served in the Tula Airborne Division from 1985 to 1991 and that, in addition, Mr. Lebed is an honorary citizen of Tula. The initiative group includes Afghan war veterans and creative artists. It is not known, however, whether General Lebed himself was consulted on the initiative.

Social Democrats Consolidate; Undecided on Leader

MK1609100094 Moscow KOMMERSANT-DAILY in Russian 16 Sep 94 p 3

[Report by Natalya Arkhangelskaya: "Social Democrats Intend To Form a Shadow Cabinet"]

[Text] On the evening of 14 September in the office of Ostankino chief Aleksandr Yakovlev a closed conference took place with activists of the Social Democratic Party of Russia. The aim of the conference was to work out practical measures to create a United Social Democratic Party. Preparing for the important meeting, the social democrats held a political council shortly before.

The unification idea was born back in April at an international conference on prospects of Russian social democracy. The decision to move over to practical action, however, was not made until 13 September at a session of the party's political council. There is already an outline of a coalition. The Russian Democratic Reforms Movement led by Gavriil Popov is an unquestionable partner. Things are more difficult with other social democratic-oriented parties (Rumyantsev, Lipitskiy, Salye, and others). A dialogue with everybody who considers himself a social democrat is apparently necessary but the difference between self-proclamation and outlook can be rather big. True holders of social democratic copyright (i.e., leaders of the Social Democratic Party of Russia) are determined categorically to dissociate only from the social democrat Rutskoy who, in their opinion, is capable of generally compromising this term in Russia.

Apart from organizations, some outstanding personalities will be invited, while, according to social democrats, the initiative originated from these persons themselves, whom the social democrats now want to ask to work as party secretaries along the following lines. Economics will be overseen by Stanislav Shatalin; the military, by Marshal Shaposhnikov; and the post of secretary for ideology will traditionally go to Aleksandr Yakovlev. Secretaries will start working on the program and will constitute something of a shadow cabinet.

There will be a leader above the secretaries. Grigoriy Yavlinskiy is tipped for the post. Social democrats are aware of the scope of problems involved. Not everybody is convinced of the prominent economist's political competence; other agree with Gaydar in that the sole presidential candidate must be Yeltsin. Moreover, up to now Yavlinskiy has not directly and unequivocally declared his social democratic convictions. Finally, the Social Democratic Party of Russia is currently affiliated with the Yabloko faction but, hoping sharply to increase its political weight in the process of unification, the party does not intend to be a matreshka inside a larger matreshka [Russian nesting dolls]. Neither does it want to be a mere springboard for an ambitious politician: The memory of incumbent vice premier and former social democrat Shokhin's abandoning the party in 1991 is still fresh. Because so far there have been no coherent consultations with Yavlinskiy, however, debates about a future leader smack of an unmistakable academism.

Yabloko Issues Appeal in Run-Up to Founding Congress

MK1709111094 Moscow KOMMERSANT-DAILY in Russian 17 Sep 94 p 3

[Report by Maksim Sokolov under "New Political Movement" rubric: "Yabloko Has Been Set in Motion"]

[Text] The initiative group of the Yabloko movement has circulated a draft appeal to Russian citizens, and public and political organizations. The document is designed to galvanize the masses in the run-up to the movement's November founding congress.

Speculation as to who Yavlinskiy is going to team up with, and whether he will do so at all, is becoming idle. As for the actual parties, they are all very much in evidence: "Some (i.e., the Communist Party of the Russian Federation and the Agrarian Party of Russia—KOMMERSANT-DAILY) are calling for the old distribution system; others (i.e., the Liberal Democratic Party of Russia—KOMMERSANT-DAILY), for war; and still others (i.e., Russia's Democratic Choice and the Party of Russian Unity and Accord—KOMMERSANT-DAILY), while using democratic slogans, are actually creating conditions for an even more unjust and criminalized state." Concerning the current socio-democratic flurry, Yavlinskiy completes the presentation of his fairly socio-democratic program with these words: "Yabloko's program should become your program." The unmistakable "if you want to, come under my command" position is apparently addressed not only to rank and file voters but also to social democratic associations.

On the question of promises, Yabloko apparently acts on the assumption that if one wants to make promises, one need not settle for half-measures: The principle of "everything to everybody" is followed undeviatingly in the document. To small-time depositors, special guarantees; to high-tech sectors, nascent entrepreneurs, investors in the social sphere, and retired military, tax breaks; to all, a tax reduction; to each, "a worthy level of medical service and education at the expense of the state."

The sources of funds to make good on these promises are described more vaguely. For example, after the promise to "invest money in environmental protection, science, culture, and education" the document says that "we propose a specific and feasible program for doing this. The main methods are tax stimulation, demonopolization, and promoting competition." Meanwhile, with the unquestionable need to undertake measures of the first and second kind, they impose a strain on the treasury, and therefore the program boils down to one expenditure item being financed by another.

This incoherence could be related to a characteristic feature of Yavlinskiy's ideology. For a long time he has stated, justly, that "the main enemies of reform are monopolies and associated organized crime" and therefore the main friends of reform are "demonopolization and competition." This statement is a truism of the kind: "Give me a fulcrum and I shall move the Earth:" Who could ever argue with it, but how to come by this fulcrum? The answer to the last question is purely esoteric: "We know the way out. Our movement is based on a program drawn up by G. Yavlinskiy and his associates." Staying within the confines of botanical terminology, this answer given by Yabloko [Apple] to all questions can be compared to a popular song of the early thirties: "Yagoda [name of then NKVD boss which in print looks like the word 'berry' although, with the stress on the second syllable, has nothing to do with botany] himself leads and teaches us; his eye is sharp, and his hand is firm."

Because Yavlinskiy's position has remained invariable—populism, truism, and esotericism (which gave reason for dubbing him "a Zhirinovskiy for the intelligentsia")—the Yabloko movement will hardly bring any election surprises. There are no new methods in sight for mobilizing the wavering electorate, and therefore Yavlinskiy can lean only on his long-standing and loyal followers (from 5 to 10 percent of the electorate).

Agrarians Press for Minister's Resignation

LD1809163694 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1509 GMT 18 Sep 94

[Text] Aleksandr Nazarchuk, a leader of the Agrarian Party of Russia and chairman of the State Duma Agrarian Committee, said the resignation of Agriculture Minister Viktor Khlystun would benefit the farming sector.

Khlystun's resignation was demanded, in particular, by the All-Russian Villagers' Meeting which culminated in a rally in Moscow on August 25.

Nazarchuk told Interfax that this demand was fair enough and explained that the peasants were tired of the ministry's policies.

Nazarchuk added that his party had repeatedly invited Khlystun to join it but Khlystun's views on the status of the country's agriculture was at variance with that of the party.

Nazarchuk hinted that Khlystun's resignation was imminent. He believed that his successor had to understand that new approaches were needed to reforming the agriculture and that the reforms should adapt to the Russian context.

Nazarchuk said that the new minister would have to remember that he had to work for the good of the peasants, otherwise he would have to resign, too.

Opposition Unveils Plans for 'Remembrance Day'

MK1609103094 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 16 Sep 94 p 2

[Report by Viktor Khamrayev in the "Anniversary" column: "Communists and Patriots Are Preparing Two 'Peaceful' Weeks. Their Organizing Committees, However, 'Do Not Rule Out a Bloody Outcome'"]

[Text] From 22 September until 4 October, streets and squares in downtown Moscow will be a venue of rallies, marches, and pickets to be held by patriots and communists in memory of last year's events. These plans were revealed by event organizers at the Russian Sociopolitical Center yesterday.

It needs to be pointed out that preparations for the anniversary have been conducted by three organizing committees simultaneously: An organizing committee for remembrance events, created on the initiative of the

Union of Victims of Political Terror and incorporating the Communist Party of the Russian Federation, the Union of the Russian People, the State Party, and others; the "united committee of patriotic forces," formed by the Liberal Patriotic Party Revival [Vozrozhdeniye]; and Black October, led by the Workers' Communist Party of Russia. Since July the "troika," coordinating its plans, has been engaged in mutual consultations and negotiations which resulted in a general plan of memory and protest events, presented to Moscow City Hall for registration.

Rallies and marches will take place on 21 September and 3 October. They are to include compilation of lists of the House of Soviets' defenders and collection of signatures under the demand for a nationwide referendum on non-extension of the Federal Assembly's term and for early presidential elections, as well as the election of a people's tribunal which, according to the organizers, must deal with the "bloody regime." In the area near the White Hose and the Krasnaya Presnya stadium, pickets will be placed for two weeks every day from 0600 to 2200. The organizing committees also plan to lay "a symbolic foundation stone" to a future monument of "memory of victims of the state coup." A torch procession outside the Ostankino TV center is scheduled for the evening of 3 October.

Furthermore, a scientific and practical conference "The Lessons of Black October," is planned, as is a show of video materials about last year's events, and a traveling photo display. On the last day of remembrance, early in the morning participants will form "A Ring of Protest" around the White House and then move in a "March of Silence" to Arbatskaya Metro station. Between 1100 and 1200, the organizers hope, all enterprises and organizations in Russia "will interrupt their work for at least five minutes" as a token of civil disobedience to the "venal regime."

Opposition representatives circulated a report saying that according to information in possession of the organizing committee, in connection with the upcoming events reinforcements from other regions are arriving at Moscow special-purpose militia detachments and other metropolitan police and military units. In response to these "preparations by the authorities," organizing committee members announced unanimously that the events planned are of a peaceful, constitutional character and will therefore go ahead in spite of the threat of a "bloody outcome," which the organizing committee "does not rule out."

Rutskoy Says Opposition Leader To Be Chosen Soon

MK1709102094 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 17 Sep 94 p 1

[Unattributed report under the "In Brief" rubric: "Leader Could Not Be Determined"]

[Text] "We did not manage finally to determine who the single opposition leader would be," Aleksandr Rutskoy, who attended the congress "The Russian Border: From Kaliningrad to the Kurils," which was held in Kaliningrad, said yesterday. The leader will be chosen within the next month or two, he added. Mr. Rutskoy said also that the formation of a shadow cabinet and a State Council that will include whom he described as "practically minded politicians" will soon start.

Officers' Union To Help Remove Government, President

LD1809160894 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1302 GMT 18 Sep 94

[Text] The Officers' Union intends to take an active part in removing legally the president and the government and favors the coming to power of patriots-statists. The decision was taken in Moscow on Sunday at the all-Russian meeting of the organization.

Stanislav Terekhov, the Union's leader, said that a slight incitement may put the situation out of control. He believes that the political forces in Russia divided into the bloc of the national treason and the bloc of national renaissance.

He believes that the population's discontent will continue to grow during the autumn and winter, when economic demands will be replaced by political ones, said Terekhov.

Terekhov who spent five months in jail on charges of organizing mass disturbances in September-October 1993, called on his supporters to work actively in law-enforcement and security bodies and strengthen ties with workers in power structures.

Media Issues

Poltoranin Suggests Two Channels Go Commercial

MM1609140594 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 16 Sep 94 p 9

[Unattributed, untitled report]

[Text] According to the "Vesti" television program, in St. Petersburg Mikhail Poltoranin recently made his latest proposal for saving state television. He expressed readiness to forgo the fourth and fifth channels and lease them to commercial structures, and use the revenue to continue funding "Ostankino" and "Russia" TV. When interpreting Poltoranin's statement you may remember the slogan—"It is up to a drowning man to save a drowning man." That is, after all, the position in which the Russian Television Company may find itself if it forgoes its "Russian Universities" on the fourth channel to save the second channel.

Report That Kravchenko To Head Ostankino Refuted

MM1609140194 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 16 Sep 94 p 9

[Unattributed, untitled report]

[Text] Last Saturday a sensational report appeared in NOVAYA YEZHEDNEVNAYA GAZETA saying that Leonid Kravchenko, former chairman of the USSR State Committee for Television and Radio Broadcasting, would be offered the post of head of "Ostankino," taking up the post currently held by Aleksandr Yakovlev. Leonid Petrovich Kravchenko, first deputy editor in chief of ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA, provided the following extremely terse answer to our correspondent's request for comment on this report: "Utter rubbish!" Recourse to other trustworthy sources confirms that this report is totally unfounded.

Information Chamber Urges Lawsuit Against ZAVTRA

MK1709074094 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 17 Sep 94 p 2

[POSTFACTUM report under the "In Brief" rubric: "Moscow"]

[Text] The Russian president's Judicial Chamber for Information Disputes has suggested that the Russian Federation Press Committee file a lawsuit requesting cessation of the ZAVTRA editorial board's operations in connection with "repeated violations of Article 4 of the Russian Federation Law on the Mass Media.

Military & Nuclear Issues

Grachev on Difficulties Providing for Returning Troops

LD1609175494 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 2030 GMT 15 Sep 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vladimir Gondusov]

[Text] Moscow, 16 Sep—On the eve of his trip to Ivanovo Oblast, which is to take place today, in a conversation with the ITAR-TASS correspondent, Russia's defense minister noted that the insufficient financing of the military department is having a negative effect on providing facilities and equipment for the troops withdrawn from abroad, although a quest for additional financing is under way.

The minister noted that he had allocated 4 billion rubles from his own fund for the 144th guards' motorized rifle division, which is deployed at Yelney in Smolensk Oblast, and 6 billion rubles for the 10th guards' tank division, which is stationed in the town of Boguchar in Voronezh Oblast. It is precisely these two formations that have turned out to be in the most difficult situation, since, unlike other units, they have been withdrawn literally into an open field.

Grachev expressed satisfaction with the way in which the returning troops had been accommodated in the localities. In all corners of Russia the heads of krays and oblasts are taking an understanding attitude toward the needs of the army, they are keeping up extremely close contacts with the commanders, the minister stressed.

Grachev Seen Exposed by Comment on Exercises

MM1909142594 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 17 Sep 94 p 1

[Report by Vladimir Saynetdinov under the "Maneuvers" rubric: "Minister Went Too Far"]

[Text] The largest command and staff strategic exercises in the history of Russia's border troops, "Vostok-94," which have been launched in the Far East, are culminating in a complete victory for the "north" over the "south." It seems, however, that there is another loser too—Defence Minister Pavel Grachev.

It follows from the text of a statement by Grachev that nobody gave Andrey Nikolayev, commander in chief of Russia's border troops, the "thumbs up" for these maneuvers. Russia's defense minister informed the public that "not a single subunit of Russia's Armed Forces took part in the proclaimed events." KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA's correspondent, being at the headquarters of the "Vostok-94" exercises, got hold of explanations, so to speak, at first hand.

It turns out that, back on 1 September this year, Andrey Nikolayev had notified President Yeltsin of his plans and obtained agreement for holding the "Vostok-94" exercises. And yesterday, at a tank regiment test range 60 km from Khabarovsk at exactly 1200 [0800 GMT], a most authentic battle unfurled, involving motorized riflemen supported by tanks, artillery, and aircraft.

After the fighting, "northern" and "southern" border guards and soldiers ate a hearty lunch together. Sampling the soldiers' chow, KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA's correspondent learned that before the fight the border guards had shared food with the tank crewmen supporting them because there is nothing in their regiment apart from pearl barley and potatoes.

Against the backdrop of what was seen and heard, the defense minster's statements appear, at the very least, truly strange, and Grachev's information has given rise to serious doubts at the exercise headquarters because, apart from the infantrymen, tanks, and artillery, an eight-man operations group from the General Staff also attended the maneuvers.

Vostok-94 Border Guards Exercise End

LD1909140594 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1200 GMT 19 Sep 94

[Video report from Vladivostok by correspondent S. Abonosimova; from the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] The Vostok-94 command and staff exercises ended today in the Far East. They involved men and materiel from four border districts, the Baykal, Far East, Pacific, and Northeast. These were the first exercises to be held by Russian border troops on such a scale, from Chita to Chukotka. The commander in chief himself supervised the actions of the Baykal, Far East, Pacific, and Chukotka border districts.

There were few details available. The Vostok-94 exercises were command and staff. Everything took place on maps. But the real information about strategic direction, both real and for exercises, were not for the journalists.

During the exercises cooperation was practised between border units set up by federal counterintelligence, the customs, police, interior troops, and army and navy units.

Commander Defends Work of Border Troops

LD1709224094

[Editorial Report] Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian at 1700 GMT on 17 September 1994 broadcasts a three and a half minute report from the Novosti Plyus program on the Russian border troops taking part in the Vostok-94 command and staff exercises in the Russian Far East this week. Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev questioned the strategic worth of the Vostok-94 exercises and suggested that the defense of the Tajik border should be handed over to the Armed Forces.

Correspondent Dmitriy Voskoboynikov questions Aleksandr Tymko, chief of staff of the Russian border troops, on these and other issues.

Tymko is asked about the aims of the Vostok-94 exercises. He replies: "Instruction is taking place in the central command bodies of the federal border guard service. That is, we are tackling all instructional issues from the point of view of how to improve the command." He continues: "The main aim of the strategic command and staff exercises now being carried out by the commander in chief is to implement the provisions of the law on the state border."

Asked whether the border troops or the Russian Army were shouldering the main burden on the Tajik border and elsewhere, Tymko says: "Who is on the border at the moment, on the 1,300 km of border? The answer is simple: The border troops. Of course it is the border troops who are carrying the whole burden on the frontiers. Of course we would like to see a barrier, defensive belts, set up at the rear. Of course the Armed Forces ought to do that.

"But as far as the idea of merging the border troops with the Armed Forces is concerned, this idea has been examined before. I would like to quote the provisions of the federal border guard service, in which the president clearly defined the creation of a federal border guard service as a federal ministry, subordinating it to the supreme commander in chief, in the person of the president, and the Government of the Russian Federation. I cannot quite understand who has wanted to rock this boat at this difficult time. Everyone has to think at the moment how best to carry out his own tasks."

Asked whether Russian border troops should guard only Russian borders, Tymko replies: "We have closed off everywhere that could present a threat to Russia. We have closed off the border in Tajikistan. We have a group in Kyrgyzstan. We have an operational group in Turkmenistan. That is, we have an unbroken chain of border protection on the former borders of the USSR. If we leave Tajikistan now, what border are we going to guard?" The Russian Federation border is defined, but it is not equipped, he explains. "There are 7,500 km of border with Kazakhstan. Can the state allocate even a tenth of what is needed in the present conditions? Hundreds of trillions of rubles. But as far as today is concerned, there are 100,000 Russian citizens living in Tajikistan, and we must be there even if only for their sakes."

Murmansk Nuclear 'Time Bomb' Described

BR1609135494 Rome LA REPUBBLICA in Italian 14 Sep 94 p 16

[Carlo Pizzati report: "Murmansk, Nuclear City That Threatens Europe"]

[Text] Murmansk—The boys playing guitars in the park do not know it. The old woman cleaning windows does not know it. The little girls playing hide-and-seek under the bust of Lenin do not know it. Nobody seems to know that they are lying, standing, or sitting on top of a huge time bomb. It does not seem so, but it is so: Murmansk, with its half-a-million inhabitants impoverished by the collapse of the USSR, looks like a city, but it is a time bomb.

The last port on the coast facing the North Pole that is not blocked with ice during the winter, this city has always been a very important strategic base for the Soviet Northern Fleet. This is why Russia still has its 100 nuclear submarines moored along the coast of the Kola peninsula. Also moored in these small inlets, there are another 50 rusty nuclear submarines, in a very dangerous condition. These disused submarines, like vast radioactive whales, are waiting for the money to be found to extract their nuclear reactors.

Meanwhile erosion and rust allow radiation to escape into the air and into the Barents Sea. According to the Yablokov report published by the Kremlin, "unless a rapid solution is found, the contamination of fish will be double the safety limit by the end of 1995."

The Norwegian authorities, worried about the spread of unfounded rumors about contaminated fish, are providing assurances that for the present radioactive contamination is nonexistent. "The Baltic and the Irish

Seas, where the British have been dropping their waste for years, are much more contaminated," according to Betsy Ellingsen Tunold [name as transliterateda], the Norwegian Foreign Ministry official responsible for nuclear policy. "But our fish are not contaminated. There is no cause for alarm. Not yet." But it is that "not yet" that is worrying the world. The Russians have turned the Kara and Barents Seas into a nuclear trash can by emptying a substantial amount of radioactive material into it over the years—one disused submarine complete with reactors full of fuel, 17 ships contaminated with radiation, 14 reactors, and thousands of containers of solid radioactive waste.

This is not the only threat to the inhabitants of Murmansk, attracted over the past 30 years to this icy city 300 km north of the polar circle by fabulous salaries and free vacation trips. In the oily waters of the commercial port, eight nuclear icebreakers lie full of Soviet pride and stateless radiation. The "Lenin," the "Sovetskiy Soyuz," and the "Arktika" still fly the red flag with the hammer and sickle (is it just forgetfulness or is it nostalgia?)

These giants, with their crews of 120 sailors—which in happier days used to open up the polar route to freight ships as far as Vladivostok, but which are now more often used to take tourists to the North Pole—seem to be in perfect working order. In the reactor rooms, the staff clean the hermetic seals. Some of them do not even wear protective masks, even though they are only a few meters away from an insidious and invisible poison. They seem to despise the "namby-pamby environmentalists" who are afraid of radiation.

"They think it is stupid to wear masks," we were told in a tone of proud confidentiality by Sergey Zhavoronkin, deputy director of Atomflot. "The radiation level is so low that they consider it ridiculous to wear them." The captain of the "Sovetskiy Soyuz," Anatoliy Gorshkovskiy, is also unconcerned about radiation. The "atom captain," with a face reminiscent of a big child at the wheel of a big red toy, seemed unaware of the fact that he is sitting on a floating bomb and declared himself certain of the impossibility of a disaster. "I have not been paid for two months. But you do not work only for your wages. And even without the money for maintenance, I can guarantee that 'Sovetskiy Soyuz' is not a danger to anyone."

But the nuclear submarines do have a defect: They produce radioactive waste that is stored in old disused icebreakers a few meters away from the residential area. The Geiger counters start clicking like castanets as you approach these waste cemeteries, such as the "Lepse" or the "Imandra." "A big hole should be bored in a mountain, and the two ships should be lifted up bodily and stuck inside the rock," Otto Marnelund, the Norwegian consul in Murmansk, said unequivocally. "The waste containers inside the ships are in such a dangerous condition that the Russians are afraid to remove them, because spillage could occur during the removal." But there is absolutely no money for such an operation.

This is not the end of the story of the Murmansk nuclear volcano. Another factor that has turned this region into the area with the largest concentration of nuclear material and weapons in the world, thus also placing at risk the lives of tens of thousands of Norwegians beyond the border, is the nuclear power plant near Monchegorsk, 200 km south of Murmansk. Two of its four reactors are of the first-generation VVER type, which experts consider "high risk." There is the possibility of another Chernobyl, and there is the risk that the lowering of security controls will facilitate the sale of contraband plutonium. This is why Norwegian Foreign Minister Bjoern Tore Godal has called for the collection of international funds to help the Russians to contain the nuclear threat.

As if that were not enough, the Nikel and Monchegorsk nickel factories have already dug deadly furrows in the lungs of the peninsula's inhabitants. The factories are surrounded by a wasteland where there used to be hills, meadows, hedges, and trees. Everything has been transformed into a black mess. In the height of summer the inhabitants' faces are deathly pale, and the shrouded sky casts a gray light through the yellow smoke vomited from the chimneys. What nature gives to the heart it can also take away, when it is destroyed by man.

Yuriy Pagarev, director of health for the Murmansk region, confirmed to us that there is the highest rate of cancer and pulmonary disease here in the whole of Russia. "It is the fault of the climate and of the sulfur emitted by the factories," Pagarev said, while denying—perhaps to avoid causing panic—that radiation is also a cause of the cancer that kills his fellow citizens. "Not yet," he said. "Not yet," repeated Yuriy Berger, deputy governor of Murmansk. "Not yet," confirmed Yevgeniy Olyechik, director of the Murmansk region environmental office.

Their "not yets" are echoed by everyone who knows how much radioactive material lies in the ships, the submarines, the power plant, and the deposits of the Murmansk nuclear bomb. A nuclear catastrophe? "Not yet."

Regional Affairs

Chechen Opposition Reports Calm Night

LD1809115694 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1100 GMT 18 Sep 94

[Text] Last night and the first half of today passed peacefully in Chechnya's opposition-controlled Nadterechnyy Rayon, INTERFAX learned by telephone from Zaindi Choltayev, head of the opposition Provisional Council administration in the settlement of Znamenskoye.

In his words, the opposition lost four men during Saturday's armed clashes with Chechen government forces outside the settlement of Tolstoy-Yurt on the border of Groznyy and Nadterechnyy rayons. The dead included

Ruslan Khasbulatov's cousin, Uvays Khasbulatov, Choltayev said. Znamenskoye has no details of the losses sustained by government troops.

Today the dead are being buried and mourned in Tolstoy-Yurt, INTERFAX reports.

Dudayev: 'Have Done With' Opposition Soon

LD1809085594 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0548 GMT 18 Sep 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Sharip Asuyev]

[Text] Groznyy, 18 September—At a meeting of the Chechen security council on Saturday [17 September], Dzhokhar Dudayev instructed his power structures to have done with the opposition in Chechnya "literally within days." This refers to a desire to rout the supporters of Ruslan Khasbulatov and Umar Avturkhanov along with the armed units of Beslan Gantamirov and Ruslan Labazanov who support them. In the opinion of Dudayev, most of the population supports the current authorities in Chechnya and not the opposition.

After making accusations against his opponents, Dzhokhar Dudayev said that his supporters would "not stoop" to sabotage, acts of terror, or violence against peaceful inhabitants. At the same time however, he gave orders to shoot on sight all those who, as he put it, "arrive in the republic in masks or with masks."

The Russian mass media were also subjected to harsh attack. According to the Chechen president, they "are continuing to provoke disturbances in the republic."

Dudayev Forces Mount Offensive

LD1709104094 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1000 GMT 17 Sep 94

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] We have just received information from the directorate of the news service of the administration of the president of the Russian Federation.

The press center of the Provisional Council of the Chechen Republic reports that, at dawn today, Dudayev's troops launched a powerful strike against the inhabited locality of Goryacheistochenskaya in the direction of the village of Tolstoy-Yurt.

According to the information, as of 1400 Moscow time the forces of the Provisional Council of the Chechen Republic are engaged in a battle against Dzhokhar Dudayev's numerically superior formations. Several tanks and armored personnel carriers have been knocked out on both sides. There are numerous casualties.

The tanks and artillery of Dudayev's formations are carrying out massive shelling of the villages of Tolstoy-Yurt and Goryacheistochenskaya. Civilians are being killed.

Seize TV Station

LD1809144194 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1302 GMT 18 Sep 94

[Text] Saturday night and Sunday morning all was quiet in Nadterechnyy District, which is controlled by the Chechen opposition, a spokesman for the opposition Provisional Council, Zaindi Choltayev, told Interfax on telephone from the village of Znamenskoye.

According to him, the opposition lost four men in Saturday's clashes with government troops outside the village of Tolstoy-Yurt (on the border between Groznyy District and Nadterechnyy District). As Choltayev said, the killed included Uvays Khasbulatov, a cousin of the former speaker of Russia's parliament. No information concerning casualties sustained by the government troops is available.

The killed were mourned for and buried in Tolstoy-Yurt on Sunday.

According to Choltayev, the units of President Dudayev attacking Tolstoy-Yurt numbered about 3,000 men. They managed to seize the mobile TV transmitter, with whose aid the so-called "peace-making group" led by Ruslan Khasbulatov had beamed telecasts to some areas in Chechnya.

However the government troops did not succeed in entering the village itself. They were stopped on the approaches to it.

At present Dudayev's troops are concentrated 10 or 15 kilometers away from Tolstoy-Yurt. They might launch more attempts to capture the village, Choltayev said.

As for Khasbulatov, he did not leave the village on Saturday. He is still there, Choltayev said. Saturday evening he conferred with the chairman of the Provisional Council, Umar Avturkhanov, who had come to Tolstoy-Yurt to "express his condolences and give the necessary aid in munitions". Arms shortages alone are preventing Dudayev's opponents from putting up adequate resistance to his regime, the spokesman for the Provisional Council pointed out.

Interfax has no information as to official Groznyy's version of the latest events.

Retreat From Battle Scene

LD1709135994 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1256 GMT 17 Sep 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Sharip Asuyev]

[Text] Groznyy, 17 Sep—Subunits of Dzhokhar Dudayev's forces have retreated from the village of Tolstoy-Yurt after a fight that lasted three hours, with two people killed and several wounded on their side. They began a powerful offensive involving armor in the direction of the village at sunrise this morning.

At this stage ITAR-TASS does not have any information about the number of casualties among the defenders of Tolstoy-Yurt, where the headquarters of Ruslan Khasbulatov's peacemaking group and Ruslan Labazanov's armed detachment are located. However, some eyewitnesses of the fighting said that eight opposition soldiers have been captured. Under the conditions of blood feud in Chechnya, their lives are in danger.

In the afternoon, Bislan Gantamirov, leader of the biggest armed grouping, arrived in the village of Tolstoy-Yurt. The Chechen Provisional Council appointed him the commander of the opposition's armed formations on Thursday.

It is not ruled out that fighting could resume on a larger scale near Groznyy by this evening.

Interim Council Unaware of Khasbulatov Location

LD1709164594 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1508 GMT 17 Sep 94

[Text] The current location of the ex-speaker of the Russian parliament, Ruslan Khasbulatov, whose "peacekeeping group" was based in the village Tolstoy-Yurt stormed by government troops this afternoon is still unknown.

This statement was made by the staff of the opposition Chechen Interim Council in an interview with Interfax. According to the Interfax interviewee, local residents had most probably taken their fellow-countryman to a safer place.

In the meantime, reports came from the village Nadterechnoye, the Nadterechnyy district, controlled by the opposition that first six wounded had been delivered to the local hospital from the village Tolstoy-Yurt where clashes between government troops and opposition supporters continue. No details as to the number of victims have come so far.

Groznyy Statement on Tolstoy-Yurt Fighting

LD1809071294 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0525 GMT 18 Sep 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Sharip Asuyev]

[Text] Groznyy, 18 Sep—The authorities in Groznyy have described the fighting between the opposition and Dzhokhar Dudayev's armed forces near the Tolstoy-Yurt settlement on Saturday as "an operation to unblock roads." This is according to a special communication from the Chechen Interior Ministry issued by the CHECHENPRESS agency today. Nothing is said of the number of dead on either side. It is only said that three armored units, an antiaircraft gun, and other weapons were seized and prisoners taken during the operation.

The Chechen Interior Ministry claims that it now controls all roads in this area to the north of Groznyy.

Chechen Envoy in Moscow 'Quite Possible'

LD1609171894 Moscow Radiostantsiya Ekho Moskvy in Russian 1505 GMT 16 Sep 94

[Text] Interfax reported today that an aide to the head of the Chechen Republic had arrived in Moscow to hold talks on the possibility of signing a bilateral treaty with Russia, based on a confederative relationship. The aide, who asked to remain anonymous, declined to say whom his visit had been agreed with and whom he intended to meet in Moscow.

In an interview with Moscow's Echo Movlen, Salimov, an aide to the Chechen president, denied this report and Movladi Udugov, the republic's information and press minister, said:

[Begin Udugov recording] I do not know anything about this. It is quite possible that somebody arrived. We have been saying for three years that an agreement is possible. An agreement is not only possible, it is essential if we are eventually to put an end to the idiotic situation that is developing in the North Caucasus at the moment. We are prepared to negotiate. The only change in our position is the fact that the Government of Chechnya has decided that the talks must be held either by the two Foreign Ministries or the two presidents—in other words, the levels that wield real political force and that can take political decisions. [end recording]

Sources Say Yeltsin, Dudayev Might Meet Soon

MK1709073094 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 17 Sep 94 p 1

[Report by Maksim Isayev under the "In Brief" rubric: "Presidents To Meet"]

[Text] It has transpired from knowledgeable sources that a personal meeting between Boris Yeltsin and Dzhokhar Dudayev is likely to take place in the near future.

Ministry Denies Planned Talks

LD1609151094 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1355 GMT 16 Sep 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vladimir Taranov]

[Text] Moscow, 16 Sep (ITAR-TASS)—The Russian side has no plans to hold any "negotiations" with representatives of the Chechen president on the signing of a Russian-Chechen treaty. Asked by ITAR-TASS to comment on media reports about the arrival of a Dudayev aide in Moscow on Friday, the Russian Federation Ministry of Nationalities and Regional Policy said it "knows nothing of such a visit".

Official Groznyy Avoids Comment

LD1709161694 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1508 GMT 17 Sep 94

[Text] The apparatus of Chechen President Dzhokar Dudayev avoided commenting on statement saying that

Dudayev's advisor had arrived in Moscow for consultations on signing the Russian-Chechen treaty. This statement was later denied by the Chechen Ministry for Federation and National Policies.

Sources in the apparatus of the Chechen president told Interfax that any comments on the issue could do harm to Russian-Chechen relations. They said practice showed that the beginning of bilateral consultations was going hand in hand with attempts to wreck talks.

The same sources said that the talks between Russia and Chechnya had not been suspended although they were "not always easy and successful."

No Martial Law Imposed in Chechnya

LD1609162894 Moscow Radiostantsiya Ekho Moskvy in Russian 1505 GMT 16 Sep 94

[Text] Here are more details about the situation in Chechnya. The president of the republic, [Dzhokhar] Dudayev, has not signed the decree on the imposition of martial law. Radio Ekho Moskvy was informed of this by Movladi Udugov, the republic's minister of information and press.

[Begin Udugov recording] He was supposed to sign it yesterday, but at the last moment, he declined to do so and deferred examination of this question until 19 September. So, the report about the imposition of martial law is premature. The cabinet discussed this question yesterday. The Security Council will discuss it again tomorrow, and the Presidential Council will discuss it on 19 September. Only then will the president adopt a specific decision on this question. No, martial law has not been imposed on Chechnya. [end recording]

Martial Law Only 'Draft Decree'

LD1709124794 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1130 GMT 17 Sep 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Sharip Yusupov]

[Text] Groznyy September 17 TASS—The Chechen leaders refuted today a report on imposing martial law in Chechnya. "Only a draft decree on it is in existence, but it has not yet been signed by the president and will hardly be signed before Monday," a source close to Dzhokhar Dudayev told ITAR-TASS today.

During the past 24 hours the situation was comparatively calm in Chechnya. However, a group of unidentified persons against attacked the radio broadcasting center in Groznyy on Friday night, Chechen Interior Minister Ayub Satuyev told ITAR-TASS. He added that an Interior Ministry officer had been wounded during the shooting.

The TV center in Groznyy was blown up three days ago, but specialists partially restored it, and on the next day the broadcasting of two programs of Russian TV was resumed. Now specialists are repairing the facilities permitting to transmit local TV programs. Their absence deprives Dudayev's supporters of a powerful instrument of influencing public opinion.

The opposition is not reducing its activity. ITAR-TASS learned that Ruslan Khasbulatov and his peacekeeping group were now preparing the second congress of the Chechen people. A meeting of representatives of district initiative groups for the preparation of the congress was held in the village of Tolstoy-Yurt on Friday. Speaking at the meeting, Khasbulatov stressed that the peacekeeping group headed by him was capable of preventing a civil war in Chechnya. "We shall not permit the small Chechen Republic to become a hotbed of tension in the Caucasus and a training ground for the settlement of somebody's geopolitical problems," he said.

Khasbulatov and his aides regard the popular meeting in the village of Znamenskoye on June 4, this year, as the first congress of the Chechen people. It elected the Provisional Council and proclaimed it to be the only lawful authority in Chechnya.

In the opinion of Khasbulatov, the Provisional Council was created only to overthrow Dudayev. After that power should be turned over to another "provisional authority". It is for electing this "authority" that the next congress of the Chechen people will be held.

Pervomayskiy Reportedly Shelled by Opposition

LD1609202294 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1956 GMT 16 Sep 94

[By ITAR-TASS]

[Text] Groznyy September 16 TASS—According to reports from groznyy, five tanks and an armoured troop carrier belonging to the Provisional Council shelled on Friday morning the settlement of Pervomayskiy on border with the Nadterechnyy district, the main stronghold of the opposition to Dudayev's regime.

CHECHEN PRESS told TASS today that four volleys were fired at this settlement. A 9-year-old girl was seriously wounded and several houses were destroyed.

So far ITAR-TASS has not received confirmation of the incident from the Provisional Council.

'Sources' Claim Dudayev Recruiting Mercenaries

LD1609182494 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1602 GMT 16 Sep 94

[Text] The Chechen regime headed by President Dzhokhar Dudayev is actively recruiting mercenaries in the Baltic states, Abkhazia, Ingushetia, Ossetia and even in the Russian capital, sources in Moscow requesting anonymity told Interfax Friday.

According to reconnaissance information, the Chechen National Bank gave Colonel Usman Sugaypov of the Chechen Interior Ministry 1.5 billion rubles in early

September to recruit former servicemen of crack units in Moscow. The colonel is currently staying in the Russian capital, according to the information, secretly searching for potential soldiers.

According to the same sources, the Dudayev regime is trying to bribe Russian officials and politicians whose position is important in the resolution of the Chechen issue.

The Chechen leadership has continued to purchase arms in "hot spots" of the former Soviet territory. About half of the 3 billion rubles given to Housing and Communal Utilities Minister Baudin Tsamayev for improving Groznyy was used to purchase arms from Azerbaijan, the source states.

Force May Be Used To Remove Dudayev

LD1709164894 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1557 GMT 17 Sep 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Moscow, 17 Sep—"Today's battle near the village of Tolstoy-Yurt is another provocation by Dzhokhar Dudayev and may force the interim council to remove the present regime in Groznyy from power by force," Umar Avturkhanov, leader of the interim council, told ITAR-TASS.

He said that by 1500 Moscow time [1100 GMT] battles between the forces of Dzhokhar Dudayev and subunits of the opposition in Terek Pass in the vicinity of the village of Tolstoy-Yurt had ended. Troops of the president of Chechnya withdrew in the direction of Groznyy. The village of Tolstoy-Yurt is still controlled by the opposition; however, individual local skirmishes are still to be observed in the vicinity.

According to preliminary data of the interim council, on the side of the opposition forces, as a result of today's battle, four people died, six were wounded and a tank was destroyed. Znamenskoye does not yet have precise information on casualties among the civilian population or losses by Dzhokhar Dudayev's subunits.

Umar Avturkhanov said that reinforcements were sent to the village of Tolstoy-Yurt as soon as information was received about the offensive by Dudayev's formations in that direction. Bislan Gantamirov, leader of the joint armed opposition forces, left for the scene of these events and is there now.

According to information of the head of the interim council, neither Ruslan Khasbulatov, leader of the peacekeeping group, nor Ruslan Labazanov, leader of an armed grouping, are in Tolstoy-Yurt at present.

Umar Avturkhanov did not rule out the possibility of fresh clashes between the opposition and the president's subunits. According to his information, there are three tanks, three armored vehicles, several artillery installations and men of formations true to Dudayev concentrated in the vicinity of the populated area of Ken-Yurt.

Chechen Interim Council Head Appeals to Yeltsin

LD1709144794 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1242 GMT 17 Sep 94

[Text] A group of refugees [who] fled to the village Znamenskoye from villages attacked by Dzhokhar Dudayev's troops Saturday asked Russian President Boris Yeltsin to "take immediate and drastic measures to stop killing civilians in the Groznenskiy and Nadterechniy districts of the Chechen Republic."

This statement was made by the head of the opposition Chechen Interim Council, Zaindi Choltayev, whose headquarters are located in Znamenskoye. Choltayev said that over 300 refugees, including Yamilkhan Khasbulatov, a senior brother of the ex-speaker of the Russian parliament, Ruslan Khasbulatov, compiled the text of a corresponding telegram, but failed to transmit it due to damaged communications lines.

Chechen Opposition Reports 'Fierce' Fighting

LD1709144994 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1355 GMT 17 Sep 94

[Text] The head of Chechnya's opposition Provisional Council, Umar Avturkhanov, said "fierce fighting" was in progress in the republic between opposition and government forces. The clashes are taking place along a front line running through the villages Keni-Yurt, Goryacheistochnenskaya and Tolstoy-Yurt, Avturkhanov told INTERFAX.

He said a large number of troops had arrived at Pervomayskaya village, several kilometers north of the republic's capital Groznyy. They were likely to set off for Nadterechnyy District, where the Provisional Council has its headquarters, Avturkhanov said.

He said President Dzhokhar Dudayev forces had taken a height dominating the area and were moving their heavy weapons towards local villages.

Avturkhanov said the outcome of the events would hardly be clear before Saturday evening.

"The morale of the population of Nadterechnyy District is very high," he said. "It will not be broken. We are ready to die but not to surrender our positions." He said a call had been issued for everyone in the district able to hold arms to join a local militia.

Shakhray Outlines Policy on Chechnya

LD1709022294 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1830 GMT 16 Sep 94

[Report by unidentified correspondent on remarks by Russian Deputy Prime Minister Sergey Shakhray in

Moscow on 14 September; from the program entitled "The Crisis May Be Resolved If..."—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Shakhray] Chechnya is really our internal affair; rather, it is the product of our internal development, and that must be understood if that crisis is to be resolved.

[Correspondent] [passage omitted explaining Shakhray's views]

[Shakhray] What is now called Dudayev's regime arose in Chechnya. It is not a matter of his being a general or not. The fact of the matter is that a criminal free economic zone has been created in the Chechen Republic. Remember the anecdote: Give me one meter of state frontier, and I will take out through that gap enough to last me and my relatives a whole life time! A zone—with not one meter but thousands of kilometers of state frontier—has been created in the Chechen Republic. It is a huge, criminal free economic zone, a financial mechanism. It is not just an internal Russian one but an international one, with the help of which weapons, narcotics, and hard currency are carried through the territory of the republic.

In addition, the main mass of the citizens of the Chechen Republic do not gain anything from this. The ends of that financial mechanism, or financial pump, are in Moscow, London, in the Near East, and so on. Although, just as with the Colombian mafia, the narcotics mafia, there is a stratum of people who gain from that mechanism, who profit from it. A stratum of people has been created who earn a lot from that—150 trips a month abroad, the tax-free import of goods to Groznyy.

The economy of the republic has been almost entirely destroyed. The main source of income—oil refining—has been destroyed. Railway lines have been cut. The situation whereby every gang controls a piece of the railway and holds up trains passing through its sector has led to the republic essentially isolating itself.

[Correspondent] [passage omitted on historical background on Chechnya]

[Shakhray] The main principles of the strategy for settling the crisis in the Chechen republic can be formulated as:

First, the Chechen republic is a subject [subekt] of the Russian Federation and, no matter how singular the development inside the Chechen republic may be, the whole set of methods provided for by the Russian Federation for administering its territory are applicable to it, including crisis methods.

The second principle is: The situation will not be resolved with the help of the Army; that is, the Army must not be drawn into resolving that conflict. Any state, however, including Russia, has a Ministry of Internal Affairs. The Ministry of Internal Affairs has power structures that may and should be used to carry out a number of tasks, including—in this situation, too—for combating terrorism, organized crime, and defending the peaceful population in the event of mass conflicts and for defending the territorial integrity of the state if there is an internal reason for this.

The third principle is federal power: the free choice of partners in settling the political situation in the Chechen republic. Free in what respect? There are resolutions by the State Duma. There is the position of the president of the Russian Federation who instructs the government to hold consultations with bodies of power, with all political forces; I stress, not with bandits running around with machine guns, but consultations with all political forces on settling the conflict.

The fourth principle: the signing of the treaty delimiting powers between the federal bodies of power and bodies of power in Chechnya is not the first stage of settling the conflict, but essentially the final stage, which should precede: the advent to power of a government of national confidence; the stabilization of the economic situation; taking the crime situation under control—or rather, eliminating crime; introducing primary measures to stabilize the economy, which has been destroyed; and the holding of free democratic elections as the result of the rise of legitimate power with which a treaty on delimitation of powers may and should be signed.

The fifth principle: A hard line for guaranteeing the interests of the Russian Federation in Chechnya should be combined with a set of measures concerning the Chechen diaspora. Incidentally, the appeal by the government that officially formulates the government's assessment of the situation and the method for a way out of the crisis expresses gratitude to the Chechen diaspora, which calls upon the population of Chechnya not to embark upon the path of civil war, upon the path of self-destruction of the nation, and stresses that the fate of the Chechen people, by the will of Allah and history, is connected with the Russian people, with Russia. Therefore, it is opposed to bloodshed and favors political dialogue and the solution of the conflict by peaceful means.

Finally, it should not be forgotten that the situation in Chechnya is a situation that directly concerns the interests of 15 million Muslims in Russia. [passage omitted]

In resolving such complex interethnic, interreligious problems, the federal government very clearly takes that into account and is holding a dialogue with the Muslims. Incidentally, many of them are assisting the political resolution of that conflict.

[Correspondent] That is the strategy, but the government also has tactics that are being carried out already.

[Shakhray] The first aspect of the Chechen problem is that there is a criminal, free economic zone. So we are taking measures to ensure that this criminal zone is closed. Every possibility for taking goods abroad from

Chechnya without permission or paying tax has been banned and closed off. Exit and entry checkpoints or registration points have been blocked or set up; that is, the paths allowing bandit formations to operate from the territory of Chechnya have been closed—be that in Mineralnyye Vody, where hostages are always being seized, or in any other territories. [passage omitted]

We are taking measures concerning the financial, mafia groupings that are outside Chechnya, and for whom Chechnya is a feeding trough and a financial pump. The Federal Counterintelligence Service has been given tasks and is working efficiently against these structures. That is to say, this financial criminal mechanism is losing its attractiveness.

[Correspondent] Shakhray touched upon the position and the powers of the Russian president.

[Shakhray] That position is formulated politically in an official message from the president to the Federal Assembly. The president, naturally, formulated only the basic approaches—the creation of conditions for holding free democratic elections in Chechnya, and the drawing up of a treaty on the delimitation of powers as a political form of resolving the Chechen crisis.

What are the powers of the president in this difficult situation? The president has two groups of powers. The first: The president is the head of state, an arbiter between all branches of power and between the federal authorities and regional authorities. Under the Constitution, he has the right to implement conciliation procedures. Under the second group of presidential powers, he is supreme commander in chief. Power structures, law enforcement structures, are directly subordinate to him, and he is the guarantor of constitutionality, legality, and the defense of the rights of citizens, regardless of their nationality. In the present situation, neither group of the president's powers should be brought into play now. There is no one with whom a dialogue can be held now.

[Correspondent] Shakhray thinks that Dzhokhar Dudayev, who is in power in Chechnya now, is not a legitimate figure, and he should be regarded only as the leader of one of the warring groupings. [passage omitted]

[Shakhray] We have a full list of weapons seized by Dudayev on the territory of the Chechen republic. The procurator's office also has these documents. Unfortunately, it was huge depots of the North Caucasus Military District, with tens of hundreds of thousands of automatic guns, with armored vehicles—essentially a tank regiment and more—light aircraft, and reserves of explosives. On the whole, it was colossal amounts of ammunition.

[Correspondent] [passage omitted]

[Shakhray] This is my reply to the proposal by various peacemakers that the Russian president should meet Dudayev: In the first place, with whom should the meeting be held? In the second place, what may be expected of that meeting? How many promises have there been? How many opportunities have their been to make use of political dialogue at other levels? Nothing came of all that. So, the result will be zero for Russia. The result will be zero for the population of Chechnya, which wants peace, law and order, and a normal life. For Dudayev, however, the result will be a political one. For by his very meeting with the Russian president, without undertaking any commitments, he will use it for slogans about the de facto recognition of the independence of the Chechen republic, that is, on it allegedly leaving the Russian Federation. That is what has to be weighed. On the whole, such recipes create a depressing impression. Politicians have gone around in circles, not bringing anything new, proposing the same old thing. Some—Galina Starovoitova [of Democratic Russia], Yevgeniy Shaposhnikov, Popov—say: Yeltsin and Dudayev should meet at once. While others—Viktor Ilyukhin, Gennadiy Zyuganov [of Communist Party of Russia] say: Use force to resolve the conflict. But both—to put it mildly—are wrong! To put it mildly, neither have any interest in the Chechen situation. All they are interested in is internal political wrangling at the Russian level. Chechnya will be used as an excuse for an attack on the government, on national on regional policy; that is to say, for political struggle. I personally think that the Chechen problem would have been resolved long ago if it had not been used for internal political, Russian-wide wrangles.

Special Services Said Arming Anti-Dudayev Gangs

[Editorial Report] Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian at 1215 GMT on 16 September broadcasts a four-minute report on a Moscow news conference given by State Duma Deputy Anatoliy Shabad following his return from Chechnya and meetings with the Chechen president and opposition leaders. During the news conference Shabad says: "There is no alternative to constructive interaction" with Dudayev's regime. He also called for the economic and financial blockade of Chechnya to be lifted.

Shabad goes on to say that he does not think that the population supports the armed opposition and that Dudayev's administration has lost control. He adds that the opponents' main charges against Dudayev's are mainly economic. Shabad says the former Russian parliament speaker Ruslan Khasbulatov is the most popular opposition figure, and Shabad's view is that political compromise between the opposing sides is "impossible", but efforts should be made to reach an armistice, possibly with the participation of Russian forces, in order to keep the opposing armed groups apart.

Shabad goes on to tell the news conference that the Russian authorities "lost patience" with Dudayev's regime at the start of the summer and that "obviously a policy was adopted to overthrow the regime, not by their own means, but with the assistance of the Chechens themselves." That is the reason why the opposition Provisional Council was recognized by the Russian authorities.

"The armed forces of the Provisional Council are being armed and trained with the assistance of Russian special services, which coordinate actions with them and supply all combat and technical equipment", Shabad says, adding that the calculation behind this is Dudayev regime's overthrow. "At the same time measures are being taken to, essentially, destabilize the situation there," Shabad says. Ten years ago, he says, PRAVDA described how the CIA was acting in Cuba and this pattern is now being followed.

Shabad concludes by noting that the inevitable result will be bloodshed and an endless struggle for power.

N. Ossetia-Ingush Edicts Not Properly Implemented

MM1609134794 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 16 Sep 94 Weekend Edition p 2

[Unattributed report: "Prosecutor's Office Issues Warning..."]

[Text] The Russian General Prosecutor's Office has analyzed the state of implementation of the Russian Federation president's edicts aimed at stabilizing the situation in the Ossetian-Ingush conflict zone. The results indicate that they are not being properly implemented by federal or local organs of power.

In particular, effective measures are not being taken to disarm illegal armed formations. The process of returning refugees and displaced persons to their places of permanent residence is going extremely slowly.

The Russian Federation Ministry of Internal Affairs is faced with the task of eliminating shortcomings in enforcing law and order during the return of refugees and the disarming of illegal armed formations.

The Russian Federation General Prosecutor's Office informs organs of power and management, officials of ministries and departments, and public movements and associations of citizens of the Republic of North Ossetia and the Republic of Ingushetia to take all possible measures to stabilize the situation and warns them of their accountability for failure to execute or opposition to the execution of the edicts of the president and decrees of the Russian Federation Government aimed at clearing up the aftermath of the conflict.

Troops Seize Weapons From N. Ossetian Village

LD1609203094 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1848 GMT 16 Sep 94

[Text] Troops of the Interim Administration in the state of emergency zone seized 48 weapons in three houses in the North Ossetian village of Stary Batakoyurt on Wednesday, the Interim Administration press center told Interfax today.

The press center said that 180,000 cartridges, eight anti-tank rockets, four Alazan missiles, four portable rocket launchers, two anti-tank mines, 302 hand grenades, two air cannons, machine guns and other weapons had been seized during the operation.

The Russian Interior Ministry's investigating group initiated a criminal case on the seizure of weapons.

After the operation six appeals from inhabitants of the village of Stary Batakoyurt were received in the Pravoberezhny Law Enforcement Department of North Ossetia. The people said that unidentified people in military uniform had stolen cattle and private property during the operation.

Interfax correspondents report that about 200 inhabitants of Stary Batakoyurt were picketing the building of the North Ossetian government in Vladikavkaz today. Picketers said they had came to the central square of Vladikavkaz as they were indignant about the actions of Russian servicemen who had searched their houses without a legal warrant. North Ossetian President Akhsarbek Galazov and Chairman of the parliament Yuriy Biragov met with the picketers.

Regional Parliament Assembly Idea Viewed

MK1609111094 Moscow OBSHCHAYA GAZETA in Russian No. 37/62, 16-22 Sep 94 (Signed to press 15 Sep) p 8

[Report by Oleg Sokolovskiy in the "Initiative" column: "Vologda Reverts to Old Ways"]

[Text] Vologda lawmakers have begun work to create a parliamentary association of Northwestern oblasts and republics. There are indications that the Vologda initiative will find support in other regions of the Russian Federation.

Gennadiy Khripel, chairman of the Vologda Oblast legislative assembly, believes the creation of a structure coordinating the activity of provincial "parliaments" is long overdue. Having begun to make local laws, the deputies felt themselves in total isolation from creative activity by colleagues in the neighboring regions. Not to reinvent the wheel, but they should at least have an information center. Because lawmaking is a costly occupation, a pooling of legislative efforts promises a multimillion ruble saving.

This, however, is not the main thing. The association's central aim is to strengthen the influence of the Federation components' legislatures over the central authorities. The "rulers" could wave aside the voice of just one oblast but they will hardly be able to reject the coordinated opinion of half a dozen full-fledged components. Duma deputies, who were elected on party tickets, and governors, who are members of the Federation Council, will have to reckon with this opinion in some form or another. It is not ruled out that something like a Northwestern parliament will loom on the political horizon. Then parliamentarians, having developed a taste for this activity, will think that regional associations would do well to create a kind of all-Russian assembly of local legislatures which could compete in influence with the Federal Assembly. Therefore the "vertical structure of representative bodies," which was destroyed last fall by Boris Yeltsin's edicts, will be restored.

Asked directly about this prospect, Gennadiy Khripel did not answer in the negative. The initiators are full of optimism. Several days ago the association idea was officially approved by the legislative assembly of Karelia. Khripel is sure that by the time of the founding conference in November others will join in. Absent at the August consultative meeting were only representative from the Republic of Komi and St. Petersburg, which was attributed to "temporary organizational snags."

Fuel, Power Crisis in Komsomolsk-na-Amure Studied

LD1709172394 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0458 GMT 17 Sep 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Aleksey Tsvetkov]

[Text] Komsomolsk-na-Amure, 17 Sep—Yuriy Shafranik, Russian fuel and energy minister, recommends that the difficult situation at local power engineering enterprises should be solved through a more efficient use of available financial resources and by actively attracting investors.

The fuel and power engineering minister today familiarized himself with the industry's enterprises in Komsomolsk-na-Amure. The situation here is serious. At TETs-2 [heat and electric power plant], the main power engineering plant, slightly more than half the reserves of coal needed for the winter have been stocked. The plant does not have the funds to pay for the fuel, its arrears to the miners are more than R [rubles] 10 billion. Another R15 billion is needed to purchase the rest of the coal required. At the neighboring TETs-3, work has been stopped on the assembly of the coal feed channel. R26 billion is needed to complete construction. There is also not enough money to purchase fuel oil and Sakhalin gas on which the plant will operate until the coal feed complex has been put into operation here.

The minister visited the local oil refinery. Because of the high prices for raw materials and the transport tariffs, output being produced here is becoming uncompetitive on the home market. Its cost price could be reduced after building a pipeline to the De-Kastri port on the coast of the Tatar Straits. Yuriy Shafranik flew by helicopter to De-Kastri in order to study these matters on the spot. Vladimir Mikhalev, head of the Komsomolsk-na-Amure Administration, believes that the minister's tour will make it possible to resolve part of the problems that are paramount for the region.

Vladimir Trade Unions Send Protest

MM1909113194 Moscow RABOCHAYA TRIBUNA in Russian 17 Sep 94 p 1

["Own Information" report: "Vladimir in October"]

[Text] The Vladimir Oblast trade unions association has adopted an appeal to its fellow countrymen.

The theme is: We cannot live like this!

"Fellow countrymen! The time has come to display civic courage and to state out loud our just demands. Each person should realize that he cannot cope on his own with the overwehlming troubles and futility. We can overcome the difficulties and achieve an improvement in our lives only by joint collective efforts. We urge you to support the trade unions' demands to the Russian Government:

"—resolve the nonpayments problem and eliminate the protracted wages debt;

"—implement exhaustive measures to stabilize production, reduce unemployment, and ensure people's maximum employment."

Vladivostok Closes Doors to Migrants

LD1809100794 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0911 GMT 18 Sep 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Yevgenia Lent]

[Text] Vladivostok September 18 TASS—The administration of Vladivostok, the center of Russia's far eastern maritime territory, is taking resolute measures to protect the region against the stunning number of migrants from the former Soviet republics of Central Asia and the Caucasus.

Beginning this coming Monday, the police and border guards of the maritime territory will install reinforced blocks on all railway, commuter, motor road and sea routes leading to the territory to bar access to people without Russian visas and to tramps.

Police is planning regular raids of central streets and squares to remove tramps and beggars.

The action was prompted by increasing complaints of local inhabitants suffering from the great numbers of "unwelcome guests" and criminal groups.

Crackdown on Illegal Immigrants in Maritime Kray

LD1709112894 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1036 GMT 17 Sep 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Leonid Vinogradov]

[Text] Vladivostok September 17 TASS—An operation started this week, whose purpose is to find citizens of other countries staying illegally in the Maritime Territory and to send them home, has brought the first results. By joint efforts of the militia, frontier guards and other power structures, 70 Chinese were arrested, whose permits to stay in Russia expired long ago. They were sent home to China through the Grodekovo border check point.

An end has been put to the almost uncontrolled penetration of the Russian territory by the Chinese. Last year, as a result of this process, there were 22,000 Russians and 38,000 Chinese in the border district of the Maritime Territory. This led to a serious worsening of the crime situation. Chinese, Mongolian, Korean, Chechen and other mafia groups found their way to the region. Shooting between fighters from various groups, the murder of traders, racket and robberies became an everyday occurrence. The situation is expected to improve after the deportation of illegal immigrants.

The operation is being conducted in a calm and polite way. After the arrest the illegal immigrants are brought to Grodekovo, from where they are sent home by railway twice a day.

Putina-94 Antipoaching Operation Continues

OW1709050294 Vladivostok Radiostantsiya Tikhiy Okean Maritime Network in Russian 0715 GMT 8 Sep 94

[From the "Pacific Ocean" Program]

[Text] Border guards carrying out the third stage of the Putina-94 operation have presented a solid obstacle to foreign poachers trying to plunder the Russian economic zone in the Far East. The operation utilizes 22 patrol ships, 10 planes, and 33 helicopters, which inspect regions of the Sea of Okhotsk and the Sea of Japan adjoining Russian shores. Aerial videotaping of fishing areas is regularly carried out.

Such an impressive presence of border guards was quick to produce results, and it has been almost 10 days since Japanese fishermen, who had before felt quite at home on foreign territory, will not even come close to the Russian economic zone.

Harvest Problems in Siberia, Far East

LD1709162694 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0943 GMT 17 Sep 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Viktor Yelmakov]

[Summary] Novosibirsk, 17 Sep—Russian Deputy Prime Minister Aleksandr Zaveryukha today took part in a conference in Krasnoobsk near Novosibirsk, which discussed agricultural problems in Siberia and the Far East. Last year about 3 million hectares of grain crops remained unharvested and this situation may be repeated.

Only 30 percent of grain crops have been threshed. In Buryatia and Tuva only about one percent of grain crops have been brought in by 12 September and the situation is also alarming in Altay Kray, Irkutsk, and Chita Oblasts. The conference called for urgent mesures to be taken.

Naval Base To Be Switched to Commercial Use

MM1609142594 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 16 Sep 94 p 2

[Report by Dmitriy Litovkin: "Liinakhamari Military Garrison Gives Way to Commercial Port"]

[Text] Murmansk—This decision was made because the existing Murmansk Commercial Port is unable to handle modern large-displacement ships or the increased commodity turnover resulting from the closure of many Baltic ports to Russia. Northern Fleet surface ships will leave the military base in late September. The submarines deployed there will move next year. A technical inspection of the eight berths, the torpedo and technical base, the 13 apartment blocks with 750 apartments, the kindergarten, and other facilities will be carried out very shortly, and these support facilities will be transferred from the garrison to the local municipal services.

Russia Said Planning To Block Dagestan Border

LD1609202994 Tbilisi IPRINDA in Russian 1400 GMT 16 Sep 94

[Text] Groznyy (IPRINDA)—An IPRINDA correspondent was told at the CHECHENPRESS news agency that Russian troops and armored vehicles are arriving in Dagestan allegedly to fight the cholera epidemic. About 400 surgeons have also been sent under the same pretext. A resuscitation surgery is being established urgently in Nazran [Ingushetia]. According to the latest reports by the State Security Department of the Chechen Republic, the Russian Federal Counterintelligence Service plans to block the border between Chechnya and Dagestan by the end of September.

Cossacks Demand Jewish Autonomy's Head Resign

LD1809155794 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1302 GMT 18 Sep 94

[Text] In the Jewish Autonomous Region the Cossacks demand that the head of the local administration, Nikolay Volkov, resign. They expressed this demand in an open letter addressed to the region's legislative assembly, parties and public movements by the Elders' Council of the Amur District Cossack Militia.

The letter was prompted by the recent cancellation of gubernatorial elections. The Cossacks oppose this decision and call for conducting such elections. Otherwise they will collect signatures to a petition to the Russian president to dismiss the head of the regional administration.

Bilibino Sanitary Inspectorate Threatens Strike

MM1909122394 Moscow RABOCHAYA TRIBUNA in Russian 17 Sep 94 p 1

[INFORMKONTAKT report: "Hostages of Absurd Economy"]

[Text] Chukotka—The collective of the Bilibino stae sanitary and epidemiological inspectorate, Chukotka Autonomous Okrug, have announced they are on pre-strike alert. The Chukotka physicians have been obliged to resort to this extreme measure by lack of money: They have received no wages for three months now. The state now owes them 64 million rubles.

People do not know what to live on or what to use to go on leave and they cannot travel to the mainland even in emergencies. Frequent appeals to the local administration, Russian Federation Government, and State Duma have remained unheeded.

International Affairs

Moroz Sees 'Imperfection' in Nuclear Treaty

LD1609162994 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1500 GMT 16 Sep 94

[Text] Ukraine bears the burden of eliminating the consequences of the global Chernobyl catastrophe and is doing everything it can under the circumstances. At a meeting with Peter Hansen, UN deputy secretary general and UN coordinator for eliminating the consequences of the Cherbobyl AES [nuclear electric power station] accident, who is on an official visit in Ukraine, Supreme Council Chairman Oleksandr Moroz said: I became convinced of this after my visit to the Chernobyl AES.

During the conversation they discussed UN financial and scientific and technical assistance in solving Chernobyl-related issues. Peter Hansen gave assurances that he would make efforts to convince the international community of the need to render such assistance.

Touching on his speech at the Supreme Council session, Oleksandr Moroz said: The initiative to hold an international conference on nonproliferation of nuclear weapons does not mean that Ukraine refrains from signing the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty [NPT]. However, like many other countries, we are disturbed by the treaty's imperfection. It is necessary to work out an international agreement that includes obligations concerning nonproliferation of nuclear weapons and envisions sanctions for their violation, the head of Ukraine's parliament emphasized. Such an agreement should guarantee security throughout the world, he said.

U.S. Firm To Help Produce AES Safety Equipment

LD1809103494 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 0800 GMT 18 Sep 94

[Text] The designing of nuclear power station safety equipment, which has no equivalents at the nuclear power stations in CIS, has got under way in Kharkov. To solve this task the Khartron scientific and production association and the U.S. Westinghouse firm set up a joint venture called Westron. Westinghouse belongs to the firms that are capable of designing and manufacturing automatic control systems for the most complicated technological processes. Meanwhile, the Kharkov specialists have rich experience of designing space aircraft control systems.

In accordance with the agreement between the governments of Ukraine and the United States, the American side renders financial aid for the implementation of the projects of designing new equipment to improve the reliability of nuclear power stations in our country. At present the Westron specialists are working on a project of reflecting the critical functions of safety. This is a system of operator's information support which is planned to be introduced at the Zaporozhye nuclear power station next year.

A more large-scale project envisages the designing of an AES reactor protection control system, which is mainly financed by the U.S. Government.

Moroz Promises IMF Control Over Credits Use

LD1809102394 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 0800 GMT 18 Sep 94

[Text] Ukraine's Supreme Council Chairman Oleksandr Moroz received representatives of the International Monetary Fund: John Oldling-Smee, director of the 2nd European department; Peter Hole, leader of the IMF mission at the negotiations with the Ukrainian government circles; and Lawrence de Miller, the IMF permanent representative in Ukraine. The meeting was attended by Ukraine's Economy Minister Roman Shpek and National Bank board chairman Viktor Yushchenko.

The Ukrainian side expressed readiness for specific cooperation with international financial institutions. In particular, Oleksandr Moroz emphasized that our parliamentary structures would exercise control over the passage of foreign loans. He is convinced that this will guarantee their proper use.

During the mutual discussion of the terms of granting the above credits to our state, the sides emphasized the necessity of adopting a program for stabilization and development of Ukraine's economy.

In the opinion of the IMF representatives, its implementation will ensure higher living standards for the population, stimulate production, and allow repayment of the credits in future.

Has 'Misgivings' About IMF Demands

LD1809190094 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1800 GMT 18 Sep 94

[Text] Ukraine agrees to comply with a number of conditions of the IMF but is fearful of the social consequences. These misgivings were voiced by Aleksandr Moroz, chairman of the Ukrainian parliament.

According to the IMF recommendations, expenditures on welfare and subsidies to industry and agriculture are to be reduced. Besides, an IMF representative who visited Kiev recommended there should be no control of prices and there should be no support for the karbovanets.

Prime Minister Masol Leaves for Kazakhstan

LD1609133594 Kiev UNIAR in Ukrainian 1040 GMT 16 Sep 94

[Text] Kiev, 16 Sep—A Ukrainian Government delegation led by Prime Minister Vitaliy Masol has left for Kazakhstan on a two-day visit. The purpose of the trip is to expand bilateral trade and economic cooperation between the two states. The Ukrainian delegation will have talks with Kazakhstan's Prime Minister Sergey Tereshchenko, President Nursultan Nazarbayev, and

Chairman of the Supreme Council Abish Kekilbayev to outline priorities and prospects for cooperation.

Signs Free Trade Agreement

LD1809192494 Kiev UT-1 Television Network in Ukrainian 1600 GMT 18 Sep 94

[Text] The official visit to Kazakhstan by a delegation from Ukraine headed by Prime Minister Vitaliy Masol has ended. There will be an interview with the prime minister on the results of the visit in our bulletin in a moment, but first I would like to say that for the first time between the two states an agreement on free trade was signed, which envisages that barter between Ukraine and Kazakhstan will be developed by commercial structures with support from and participation by the state.

[Begin Masol recording] These economic relations existed for many years, but now, today, these relations have been, I would say, destroyed. But Ukraine cannot have its own production without those nonferrous metals, which Kazakhstan has now. Without them our electrical engineering industry cannot work and our cable industry basically cannot produce. Therefore, we now need very fruitful and very close economic relations with Kazakhstan.

The purpose of our visit was to sign an agreement for 1995. The conclusion of agreements and the formation of a budget for 1995 are now proceeding. Therefore it was necessary to decide whether we would have cooperation with Kazakhstan or not. That was the purpose of our visit. We signed two agreements—on cooperation in 1995 and on the protection of investments. [end recording]

Use of Space Agreement Signed With India

LD1609202894 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1800 GMT 16 Sep 94

[Text] An agreement on the peaceful use of space has been signed in Kiev between the National Space Agency of Ukraine and the Indian Space Research Organization. The document creates a legal basis for establishing cooperation between the two countries in the fields of monitoring the earth, communications, material studies in space, and mutual use of the land-based infrastructure. The agreement also envisages a possibility of carrying out joint scientific space missions, including the deliveries of scientific equipment to be launched on board spacecraft.

Udovenko Views Relations With Poland

WS1609143094 Lvov ZA VILNU UKRAYINU in Ukrainian 7 Sep 94 p 2

[Interview with Ukrainian Acting Foreign Minister Hennadiy Udovenko, by unidentified correspondent; place and date not given: "The Polish Political Olympus Is Interested in a Prosperous and Strong Ukraine"]

[Text] The fact that 63-year old Hennadiy Udovenko, ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of Ukraine to Poland, was nominated as Ukrainian acting foreign minister by the president, is differently interpreted and perceived in Ukraine. Given that Anatoliy Zlenko [former Ukrainian foreign minister] has not compromised himself in any way and adequately represented Ukraine on the international arena, Udovenko's early promotion can only be explained by the new president's reshuffling of the entire team and not taking into consideration someone's former merits or mistakes. Well, someone was instructed to dream about a new, higher position for himself. Another person could justify the changes by a "permanent need" to reform everything: the staff, viewpoints, doctrines, clothes, and even religion....

Whatever may happen, however, the tape with the interview with Hennadiy Udovenko should not be buried under dust but be published. The ambassador has left, but Ukrainian-Polish relations are going to develop not without influence from Udovenko, who will presumably become our foreign minister. In our opinion, our readers will find it interesting to get acquainted with Udovenko's concepts regarding the resolution of problems that are vitally important for many people both from the Western region and the entire state in general.

[Correspondent] Can we say that problems arising from time to time in bilateral relations between Ukraine and Poland are mainly of an economic nature? Have political issues already been resolved?

[Udovenko] Political cooperation is rather well developed: We have signed the Agreement on Good Neighbor Relations and Cooperation Between Ukraine and Poland. This is, let us put this way, the basis for our cooperation. Foreign Minister Anatoliy Zlenko visited Poland this year and signed a Declaration on the Basics of Partnership Between Ukraine and Poland. I would like to speak about our partnership in detail. This visit has prompted many responses. Our foreign minister has met with the Polish president, the prime minister, the speakers of the Sejm and the Senate, and the foreign minister. This has boosted the development of Ukrainian-Polish relations. In fact, we can be satisfied with this situation, however, there are also problems to be resolved. The point is that Poland is intending to entirely integrate with Western organizations, the European Union and NATO. On the one hand, we have declared our intention to integrate with Western organizations, on the other hand, we have declared that we are out of any groups.

Poland actively pursued Ukraine's interests during negotiations with Western leaders drawing their attention to the necessity of rendering their aid to Ukraine directly, not through Moscow. Our economic relations on the whole do not come up to the achieved high level of political relations and our states' potentials although Poland occupies the third place in our trade turnover with European states. With regard to our potential, our cooperation could have been more intensive. First, is the machine building and the military-industrial complex, or conversion; second, the production and processing of agricultural products; third, the development of a modern pharmaceutical industry with the help of Polish experts; fourth, regional cooperation (at the level of oblast and voivodships through the Euroregion Carpathians project, etc.). Ukrainian Prime Minister Masol and his Polish counterpart Pawlak held a brief meeting in Trieste and agreed to meet in Lutsk (this meeting has already been held). Not only prime ministers, but several ministers will participate in it. Seven meetings on various issues and at various levels will be held.

[Correspondent] When we asked what, in the opinion of Polish businessmen, is the greatest impediment to our economic contacts, they mentioned currency issues, the nonconvertibility of Ukrainian karbovanets. Ukrainian bureaucrats were placed in one of the leading places as well....

[Udovenko] On the whole, I agree with this estimate, however, I would have placed the issue of mutual accounts in the first place. Business is business, especially, a small one: Every person wants to gain. The Poles proposed deals on a barter basis because we have no hard currency. Though this is our past history, we should not reject barter deals. A joint Ukrainian-Polish bank should be established to help keep mutual accounts. Our mutual accounts have often been kept through Manhattan banks. This is not correct.

I fully realize why Ukrainian bureaucracy was put in first place. It is very difficult to establish a joint venture, there are many obstacles, Ukrainian legislation is unstable. If you read meticulously the results of Ukraine's economic development for the first six months of this year, you could have noticed a shocking phrase that foreign investment in our state has been reduced radically. Bureaucratic obstacles intensify doubts of Western investors in the profitability of their investment in Ukraine.

In addition, an average businessman has problems with crossing our state border. Waiting in automobile lines at our border crossings takes dozens of hours instead of some five hours. But time is money. Automobile border crossings should take as little time as border crossings at properly managed airports.

[Correspondent] Such inconveniences or rather shameful occurrences are not prompted by, let us say, a difficult economic situation, but rather by poor management. Can our staff work more efficiently? Can they respect people crossing the border and do everything to "ease the crossing procedure"?

[Udovenko] This issue is also connected with crime escalation. This is also a Polish, as well as an international problem. A businessman is not protected. He does not know whether he will be attacked by criminals or not. Owners of small shops and bars have recently gone on strike in Poland to protest against extortionists....

Both our embassy and the Ukrainian state fully realize this problem and are working to resolve it. Masol and Pawlak along with bankers [as published] should work more thoroughly on this issue. But it is more difficult to fight against our bureaucracy. We will not overcome it in one hour or a day because our bureaucrats take advantage of the current situation which they, perhaps, would miss tomorrow....

[Correspondent] Because they are also not sure about their future!

[Udovenko] You are correct in saying "their future," therefore, they are in a hurry today. Not only poor management but the need to construct border crossings requiring an investment of capital, funds, and, eventually, time comprise our problem. There is a Ukrainian state program that plans the development of transborder crossings and reflects all economic, political, border, customs, and other interests. According to this program, new border crossings will be constructed. It is natural that proper management can only improve but not fundamentally change border crossing procedures. Let us state, for example, that proper management cannot make four border crossings out of two. We should simplify our border crossing procedures, establish joint checkpoints, at which Polish and Ukrainian customs and border officers will inspect traffic simultaneously. The establishment of customs offices in all oblast centers has improved operations. For example, a vehicle is loaded with goods in Ivano-Frankovsk, the appropriate documents are registered officially, and then the car crosses the border without any specific complications. In Warsaw we send for a customs officer who inspects the car. The procedure is quick and convenient. I would emphasize that Polish Prime Minister Pawlak pays special attention to this issue: He visits border crossings, meets with customs and border officers.

There is one other point of interest: Since Ukraine became an independent state and its citizens have no specific difficulties in visiting other countries, the traffic capacity of our border crossings does not measure up to our needs. Hence, activity and entrepreneurship of heads of our customs checkpoints is important. For example, Zynoviy Burychko, chief of Rava-Ruska customs house, manages it properly. He often visits our embassy and always finds our support. We are planning to establish a large border crossing to replace a small one in Khelm Voivodship. All facilities will be located on the Polish side because we have no facilities on our side of the border. [Customs officers] Davymuko and Horyan along with me have contacted the Przemysl authorities and this issue is under way.

Our president's decrees, his speeches in the Ministry of Interior and the KGB give us reasons to hope that the anticrime battle will be stepped up. A new position for the Ukrainian Ministry of Interior representative has been introduced at our embassy. His Polish colleague and he will coordinate joint anticrime activities conducted by Polish and Ukrainian law enforcement agencies.

[Correspondent] How would you comment on the statement that official Warsaw, or Poland in general, favors an independent and strong Ukraine only because such a Ukraine could protect them from Moscow?

[Udovenko] I would not have stated this so categorically. Let us think together: What kind of Ukraine does Poland need? Primarily, it should be a tranquil, democratic, and civilized state.... But mainly, it should be an economically strong state because economic potential is a key factor to the national security of any state. We will remain a potentially explosive state while the Ukrainian economy is in a critical situation. Hence, Poland needs a stable neighbor, free of any conflicts, because the Polish-Ukrainian border is very long. This Ukraine meets Poland's demands. Does Poland regard Ukraine as a buffer between it and Russia? I can only say that Polish officials have never declared this. Ukraine, in turn, is emphasizing that it does not want to be such a buffer. If Poland becomes a NATO member, we would not like to become a buffer between a CIS military union that was formed in Tashkent and the Western military force. It seems to me that Poland has a genuine interest in the stabilization of the situation in Ukraine. I can recall my meetings with various Polish officials when the Russian Duma adopted the shameful decision to take control over Sevastopol. The Poles gave us strong support at that time: They declared that Sevastopol is a Ukrainian city and expressed their anxiety about the situation in the Crimea possibly resulting in an explosion and a conflict. I would like to assure you that the Polish political Olympus favors a stable, independent, and prospering Ukraine.

[Correspondent] What about a specific Ukrainian bridge between Europe and Asia? I do not remember who was the first to pronounce this phrase, but it has become very popular....

[Udovenko] By the way, our President Kuchma also spoke about Ukraine as a bridge. It seems to me that this is more of a popular phrase rather than a genuine political reality. Russia does not want anyone to be a bridge between it and the West, because, according to its statements, it can independently cooperate with the West.

Such is the situation in the political area, however, Ukraine, due to its geographic location, is unique in terms of its possibilities to become a bridge between Europe and Asia. First, I emphasize transport arteries. On Poland's initiative, Gdansk Voivodship and Odessa Oblast became sister cities. Mainly, these relations are of a new nature, they have nothing in common with the reforming of the former party contacts when secretaries of oblast party committees visited Poland followed by their numerous teams. We are establishing new relations on a new, mutually beneficial basis. Odessa and Gdansk have signed an agreement on cooperation. All cargoes going from Asia to, let us say, Great Britain or the Scandinavian states, can be transported to Odessa to be reloaded on rail trucks and further transported to Gdansk. There are no third countries to hamper this traffic. In Gdansk the cargo will be reloaded on ferries, and be transported to Sweden, Norway, Great Britain, or elsewhere. Second, we can mention the construction of gas and oil pipelines, or the delivery and provision of energy. Let us take the Lublin mine. We have already agreed that it will deliver 1 million tonnes of coal annually to the Burshtyn thermal power plant [in Ukraine]. Ukraine in turn will deliver ironstone to Poland. The Ukrainian Ministry of Power and Electrification will pay the Ukrainian Ministry of Industry for this ironstone. We will probably export a certain amount of electric energy to Poland.

[Correspondent] The Ukrainian embassy, in addition to establishing very important relations abroad, also protects the interests of our citizens abroad who, due to various reasons, have difficulties or problems that they are unable to resolve themselves. Could you, at least, say a few words about this subject, especially since the tourist exchange and business contacts between Ukraine and Poland are being expanded?

[Udovenko] To protect and represent the interests of our countrymen is, of course, the embassy's duty because it represents the state. Our embassy officers carry out expanded and diverse work along these lines because from 50 to 60 individuals address our consulate daily. I do not mean personal requests or letters. These people come with different issues. For example, people who were robbed or beaten, whose documents and money were stolen, address us. We try to help them. First, we provide food for those who are hungry: We always try to find money in our little budget for a sandwich or a cup of hot coffee. Later we give them money to take a photograph for a document needed for a return to Ukraine. In general, we call the Ukrainian oblast militia departments and identify the person returning to Ukraine to avoid all possible disagreeable situations.

I would like to comment on this issue in more details because we have many such problems. The embassy has no extensive funds and this year we had to help more than 4,500 individuals. Russia and Belarus began buying tickets for these people while we continue to lack funds for these purposes. I raised this issue at the Foreign Ministry because I believe that this issue should be resolved at the intergovernmental level. The government or the president should issue decrees, allocate funds, etc. This is, however, not only Ukraine's problem.

This, however, does not resolve the issue of protecting our citizens who are under judicial examination or are brought to account by the Polish court. For example, an individual has been arrested in Szczecin. The embassy's official should go there, meet with this person, hire a lawyer, and so on. All this needs big money. I was personally involved in Major Lysenko's case from the moment of his detention, and therefore I can speak in details about his case. The practice [of going to a place where a Ukrainian citizen was arrested], however, has not become regular, it is done from time to time when Ukrainian international prestige is at stake. Mr. Lysenko was not a spy. He was released but recognized as guilty. The court recently canceled the decision of the Warsaw military district court and we proved our case: We do not spy against our neighbors.

Many people apply for various documents and issuing them is time-consuming and work intensive. The issues concerning pensions and the return of property—comprising the bulk of numerous applications—have not been resolved. By the way, only the disabled who move from Ukraine to Poland receive their pensions while ordinary pensioners are refused. I am really sorry because these are sick and old people, and we cannot help them.

[Correspondent] Is it necessary to sign bilateral Ukrainian-Polish agreements to resolve these issues or should Ukraine and Poland join an international agreement on this issue?

[Udovenko] There are international conventions but we can resolve these issues on a bilateral basis, though again everything depends on money. In a word, money is everywhere....

The protection of our countrymen's interests also depends on how our mutual accounts are managed. Many Ukrainian companies formed joint ventures with Polish firms that suddenly went bankrupt. Some of these cases are worth $6,000 and some—$200. By the way, the Poles also address us with similar issues. This is clear evidence that our people are ignorant about concluding contracts and are not familiar with Polish legislation. The Polish side is in a similar situation.

I would like to emphasize that in such situations we cannot do anything: The sides have signed an agreement, then the partner's company suddenly shuts down....What should the sides do and whom to ask?

Our consulate, headed by Vasyl Koval, is doing a great job, his people virtually have no free weekends. The other issue is that the embassy building (we are still renting it from Russia) is not yet ready to make our work efficient. The culture of our interpersonal communication also leaves much to be desired. For example, we are at work at eight in the morning. At half past eight we begin receiving applicants. So all people enter the embassy hall. When our official and an applicant start arguing, the entire crowd interferes in the dispute. You could visit the U.S., German, Canadian, or French Embassies and see that their lines are not shorter. They enter special offices individually and demonstrate their loyalty and discipline. Frankly speaking, officers at these embassies deal with each person individually. To my regret, we cannot do this because the building is being repaired and renovated.

National Affairs

Continuing Reportage on Crimean Government Crisis

Poll Reveals Attitude to Meshkov

LD1809122394 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in English 0000 GMT 18 Sep 94

[Text] As reported by UKRINFORM's Simferopol correspondent, a Simferopol affiliate of the Ukrainian Center for Political Psychology conducted a poll of the republic's residents. Over 800 people were asked about their views on president Meshkov's policies. Thirty percent of the respondents believed that Yuriy Meshkov was capable of protecting their interests, 37 percent thought otherwise, while 33 percent could not decide. Of the 400 people polled at the end of August, 37 percent approved of President Meshkov. That figure reduced to 24 percent at the beginning of September. On the second day after the president dissolved parliament, only 18 percent of respondents approved of his actions, while 59 per cent did not.

Meshkov Support Reportedly Down

LD1609165894 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1332 GMT 16 Sep 94

[Text] As many as 49% of Crimea's inhabitants do not support the actions of Crimean President Yuriy Meshkov. Only 9% back them.

Such are the results of a public opinion poll carried out by the Ukrainian Academy of Political Studies among the inhabitants of Crimea. The figures were published on Thursday by the Simferopol newspaper Tavricheskiye Vedomosti.

Some 12% give qualified support for Meshkov and 30% were undecided. About 24% of the polled knew "nothing about the presidential decrees on the parliament dissolution."

Meshkov Orders Formation of New Government

LD1709171694 Kiev UT-1 Television Network in Ukrainian 1600 GMT 17 Sep 94

[Text] Despite the fact that the Yevgeniy Saburov government's resignation has not been officially accepted, Yuriy Meshkov instructed his first assistant, Volodymyr Karpov, to get down to forming a new government of the Republic of Crimea. He was charged with the task of holding negotiations, primarily, with the leaders of the five parliamentary groups and collect their proposals about the possible contenders for the ministerial posts.

Karpov is 41 years-old. Only recently he was a commercial director of the Yelena joint-stock company. He has higher education in three fields: Journalism, history, and macroeconomics.

Karpov To Be Nominated Premier

LD1709210594 Kiev UNIAR in Ukrainian 2030 GMT 17 Sep 94

[Excerpt] Simferopol, 17 Sep—President of the Republic of Crimea, Yuriy Meshkov, who has not officially accepted the resignation of the Crimean Government (which received the Supreme Council's vote of no confidence), instructed his first assistant Volodymyr Karpov to begin forming a new composition of the government of the Republic of Crimea. It became known that Mr Meshkov is not going to form the entire composition of the Cabinet of Ministers of Crimea, but will nominate only a candidature of the autonomy's prime minister for the approval of the Supreme Council.

According to informed sources, the most probable contender for this post is the president's first assistant, Volodymyr Karpov. [passage omitted]

Leading Factions Favor Coalition Government

LD1609165694 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1242 GMT 16 Sep 94

[Text] Five leading factions of the Crimean parliament opt for the creation of a coalition government to bring together representatives of all political parties of the Crimean peninsula.

Addressing newsmen on September 16 in Simferopol, Sergey Nikulin of the Russia faction said that "only that kind of government would be armed with a popular program."

Nikulin saw the program of the bloc as "popular." "That bloc propelled Yuriy Meshkov to the presidency and controls a majority of votes in the Crimean parliament," he said.

The five factions hoped that President Meshkov would accept the resignation of the Saburov Cabinet. On Thursday most lawmakers accepted it.

In Nikulin's view, Meshkov would not defend a cabinet whose performance was under legal investigation.

The leader of the Crimean Tartar faction in the Crimean legislature Refat Chubarov told newsmen that the no confidence vote received by the Saburov Cabinet on September 15 fell as "a big gift" in Meshkov's lap because, he said, "Meshkov directed the attempt to carry out a coup-d'etat and the parliament refrained from impeaching him."

Parliament Leaders Oppose 'Zero Option'

LD1609120994 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 0800 GMT 16 Sep 94

[Text] Simferopol—Crimean parliamentary group leaders gave a news conference today. Asked by a UNIAN correspondent about their attitude toward the "zero option" proposed by the presidents of Ukraine and Crimea, Volodymyr Klychnykov of the Republic group said: "I do not know what the Ukrainian president sees as the 'zero option'. We acted within the framework of the Constitution and I believe that the 'zero option' is a forcible one. The Crimean president must repeal his anticonstitutional decrees."

Serhiy Nikulin, leader of the Russia group, believes that the variant proposed will "deform legislation" and that "one cannot harmonize the Constitution and the law on the president."

Yuriy Selyukh, leader of the Agrarian group, also considers the "zero option" to be unacceptable.

The opinion of Refat Chubarov, leader of the [Crimean Tartar] Kurultay group, is that this formula will lead to a deadlock. If the "zero option" is accepted, the events of 11-13 September will be repeated.

Anushevan Danelyan of the Reforms group told journalists the "zero option" would be in breach of the Republic of Crimea Constitution. It is "a minus option" rather than "a zero one" in this particular case.

The consensus between Crimean parliamentary group leaders is that, in demanding the resignation of the government yesterday the Supreme Council forgave the Crimean president and thus passed a vote of confidence in him. The group leaders believe that Yuriy Meshkov will be forced to accept the government's resignation and form a government of popular trust.

Delegation Will Not Force 'Zero Option'

LD1609193894 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1845 GMT 16 Sep 94

[Text] Simferopol [no dateline as received]—A special commission from Ukraine's Supreme Council comprising 14 people arrived in Simferopol today. It is headed by Yuriy Karamazin [name as received], chairman of the standing Commission for the Supervision of Implementation of Ukraine's Supreme Council Decisions.

Also today, the commission members met Crimean President Yuriy Meshkov and Serhiy Tsekov, Crimea's Supreme Council chairman. The Ukrainian parliamentarians will be working in Belogorsk, Simferopol, Yalta, and Sevastopol. Their plans also include meetings with representatives from various civic organizations and movements with the purpose of studying the situation.

In Yuriy Karamazin's opinion, a set of problems was not resolved in good time in Crimea, which led to the subsequent deterioration of the situation. "One violation of the law leads to another," he said. According to him, everything began with the violation of Ukraine's Constitution and ended with the violation of the Crimean Constitution.

Yuriy Karamazin informed journalists that the commission has not set itself the task of "nudging Crimea's Supreme Council toward acceptance of the 'zero option.'"

Envoy Marchuk To Initiate Discussion

MK1709075094 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 17 Sep 94 p 3

[Report by Aleksandr Pilat in the "Crimea" column: "Parliament Has Given the Government a Vote of No-Confidence. Now it Is Up to the President"]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] It has become known that late in the evening of 15 September, Ukrainian Vice Premier Yevhen Marchuk, appointed the Ukrainian president's special temporary representative to Crimea, arrived in Simferopol. He is to meet with President Meshkov, Supreme Soviet Chairman Tsekov, members of the Crimean parliament presidium, and the deputy corps, and discuss matters related to resolving the power crisis in the peninsula. According to information in NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA's possession, Yevhen Marchuk will visit industrial enterprises, kolkhozes, sovkhozes, and sanitariums, and meet with labor collectives.

On 16 September, 14 deputies of the Ukrainian Supreme Soviet who, by a decision of a Crimean parliament session, are also to contribute toward resolving the power crisis in Crimea, arrived on the peninsula.

On 16 September journalists asked Crimean parliament speaker Sergey Tsekov what he thought about the fact the Ukrainian Supreme Soviet has revoked the Sevastopol City Council resolution "On According Sevastopol the Legal Status of a Russian City" and whether the Crimean parliament will return to this issue. Tsekov said that the present moment is not the time to raise this question: "I cannot say it with full certainty, but we might consider this question in the future." Tsekov stressed that it is necessary to settle the power conflict on the peninsula as soon as possible so that Kiev should not disband the Crimean Supreme Soviet and abolish the Crimean presidency.

Meanwhile, on 15 September a session of the Crimean Tatar People's Assembly took place. It adopted an appeal noting that the political crisis that has erupted in Crimea jeopardizes peace and civil accord on the peninsula. The events of the last few days, the document say, have once again shown "the perilousness of the political course pursued by President Yuriy Meshkov and the majority of the Crimean Supreme Soviet deputies. The situation has been aggravated by the fact that many resolutions and laws adopted by the Crimean Supreme Soviet have come into conflict with the constitution and laws of Ukraine, undermine the state's territorial integrity, and can lead to serious consequences for all residents of Crimea."

On 16 September, Ukraine Vice Premier Yevhen Marchuk visited the main directorates of the Ukrainian security service in Crimea and of the Ukrainian Internal Affairs Ministry in Crimea, and also the Prosecutor's Office of the Republic of Crimea. The leaders of these departments briefed Marchuk on the events that have occurred on the peninsula and on the current situation.

In the morning Marchuk had a one-hour talk with Crimean President Yuriy Meshkov and in the afternoon with Crimean Supreme Soviet speaker Tsekov. The meetings took place behind closed doors. Informed sources say Meshkov insists on "a zero option," but Tsekov does not agree. Today a tripartite meeting between Marchuk, Meshkov, and Tsekov is to take place.

Parliamentary Delegation Continues Talks

LD1709153394 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1242 GMT 17 Sep 94

[Text] Ukrainian parliamentarians, who had arrived in Crimea on September 16 in order to examine the situation, went to regional administrations on Saturday, the press service of the Crimean parliament told Interfax-Ukraine.

The Ukrainian parliamentary delegation is expected to remain in Crimea until the beginning of the next week.

Activities of the Ukrainian president's Special Envoy Yevgeniy Marchuk in Crimea remain confidential. On Friday Marchuk met with Crimean President Yuriy Meshkov and Chairman of the Crimean parliament Serhiy Tsekov.

Marchuk said that he could comment on his mission only after his return to Kiev.

Observers in Crimea said they believe that the Crimean president must accept the resignation of Crimean Vice Premier Yevgeniy Saburov in the near future. The Crimean parliament voted no confidence in the government of Saburov.

In accordance with the Crimean Constitution, the government is officially headed by the president.

Sources in the Crimean parliament said that former Crimean vice premier Anatoliy Franchuk who worked in the government of Saburov and Head of the Economic Council under the Crimean president Vladimir Karpov are potential candidates to the post of the Vice Premier.

Sources close to the Crimean parliament said they believe that the Crimean parliament will take part in forming the government which will, in fact, result in establishment of a coalition government.

Saburov on Continuing Conflicts

LD1609161294 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1459 GMT 16 Sep 94

[By ITAR-TASS]

[Text] Moscow September 16 TASS—The current events in Crimea reflect quite exactly the typological features of the "crisis of immature statehood," which is growing throughout the post-Soviet space. This view on the essence of the Crimean conflict was expressed by Crimean Vice-Premier Yevgeniy Saburov in the editorial office of the newspaper "OBSHCHAYA GAZETA" here.

"All parliaments differ," he added. "One is dumbfounded watching the Russian State Duma, but if one casts a glance at the Ukrainian Supreme Rada (parliament), one begins to believe that the Russian State Duma is the cream of the intellectual world. On the other hand, when one comes to the Crimean peninsula, one begins to understand that the intellectual cream of the world is to be found in Kiev. Crimea is an intellectually exhausted territory. An empire is always an empire. It is like a vacuum cleaner. All the most educated and decent fellows have been sucked by it into Moscow or Leningrad. In any case, not into Crimea.

"President Meshkov, it is true, was elected by the people. I was confronted by a phenomenon which is rare in our days: Meshkov's rating had not declined after his election, as it usually happens, but, on the contrary, has gone up. Serious sociological surveys, carried out by a well-known Moscow team, have shown that if presidential elections were held again today with the same candidates, Meshkov would get even more votes than last spring.

"It is claimed that Meshkov won the presidential elections because he campaigned for stronger ties with Russia. But this is not all to it. The previous Crimean leader, Bagrov, had discredited himself to such an extent in the eyes of the local managerial elite that the latter had boycotted the elections and did not exert any influence on them. The Crimean executive leadership did not like Meshkov, but they organically could not vote for Bagrov...

"I believe clashes between the legislative and executive branches of government are inevitable on the post-Soviet space for the simple reason that concentration of power in one of these structures is impermissible in a normal state. Since we are indeed advancing towards democracy, and I believe we are doing it, there will be clashes for complete power between the two branches of government all the time. A statehood, characterised by proper equillibrium between the two branches, can be developed either by long-lasting efforts to achive concord or conflicts...

"I believe it is basically unimportant how a concrete conflict between the two centres of power is resolved—by means of tanks or without them. The main thing is not to make this conflict deeper, not to confuse the treatment of symptoms with the treatment of the disease proper," Saburov said.

Saburov Sees Mafia 'Prevailing'

MM1609203794 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 17 Sep 94 p 1

[Interview with Crimean Vice Premier Yevgeniy Saburov by Aleksandr Ryabushev in Simferopol; date not stated: "Yevgeniy Saburov: Mafia Prevailing in Crimea..."]

[Text] Crimean Government Vice Premier Yevgeniy Saburov submitted his resignation. But President Yuriy Meshkov, despite demands from the Crimean parliament to remove the government, did not accept it. The Crimean conflict threatens to spawn unpredictable consequences.

We talk about this with Yevgeniy Saburov.

[Ryabushev] Yevgeniy Fedorovich, what are the origins of the political crisis in the Crimea?

[Saburov] Primarily, the desire on the part of many Crimean parliamentarians to install their own people in the Cabinet of Ministers. As I have stated repeatedly, clannism and corruption in the Crimea are very developed. In the three years since the collapse of the Union, many functionaries, by helping chosen entrepreneurs to find their feet, have themselves become dependent on the businessmen. Having gathered strength, these clans then set about dividing the Crimea into zones of influence. As a result, at the elections to the Crimean parliament, they invested money in the candidates' election campaigns. A merger of the interests of political and mafia structures took place. Yuriy Meshkov, who, to their surprise, claimed victory at the elections, wanted nothing to do with the corrupt authority in the localities. Many candidates from mafia clans began to exploit the authority of the president, who soon became popular among the people, in order to infiltrate parliament. But gradually a split emerged in the "Rossiya" bloc. Through the new, unscrupulous deputies, the "godfathers" of the shadow economy won Meshkov's erstwhile supporters and "friends" over to their camp. That is, those who needed parliamentary immunity in order to strengthen their own economic interests, as they themselves are engaged first and foremost not in parliamentary but in entrepreneurial activity. Some of them have already put together substantial capital, allowing them to buy and sell everything and anything. Our economic program was not to their taste. It followed from it that those who had split the "Rossiya" bloc would not be able to control us. It turned out that the deputy-entrepreneurs would not in the future be able to obtain special privileges for their firms.

[Ryabushev] Could you name names?

[Saburov] Deputy Shevyev, for one—he is the chairman of the Party for the Economic Revival of Crimea, and he owns several restaurants and stores in Simferopol. Then there is Sergey Shuriga, who changed his name recently to Kondratyevskiy—he is the owner of the "Kondratyevskiy Trading House," and he is the head of the Sevastopol Church Bank [tserkovyy bank], and owner of several ships and plants.

[Ryabushev] Are you talking about the same Deputy Kondratyevskiy who, in the space of one night, spent $948,000 on staging the "Star Breaker" festival, paying Alla Pugacheva and Filipp Kirkorov $50,000 each for one song? He promised Crimea's first president a Lincoln limo.

[Saburov] But Yuriy Meshkov did not accept this gift. In the Crimean parliament, Kondratyevskiy and Shevyev are the ringleaders in the confrontation between the Supreme Council and the president. It is they who are manipulating the others....

They sacrifice everything to the fight against the government, even the fact that there is a critical situation in the republic. To this day there is a drought unprecedented since 1921. In many sanatoriums and hotels—even fashionable ones—such as, for instance, the "Druzhba" boardinghouse, there is no water. Seriously, there isn't even anything to wash up with. In the municipal baths it's a problem even to get a cold shower, not to mention merely hot water. As a result, there is an outbreak of cholera. Twenty-three people have already been hospitalized. Yesterday, the president issued an edict on combating the epidemic. But parliament is submitting a decree pertaining to the fight against us, and it is giving Meshkov seven days to dissolve the government.

[Ryabushev] What do you intend to do?

[Saburov] It is impossible to work in such conditions. It has gotten to the point where we are being shadowed. We live in Alushta, in a boardinghouse 50 minutes' drive from Simferopol. As yet we are not putting in a claim for apartments, but we often hear hints: You do a lot of traveling—what if something happens en route? And at the same time, a deputy is talking on Crimean television about how the government is allegedly ordering murders to be carried out. We are being directly accused of participating in mafia clan showdowns. It would never even enter my head that such a thing is possible. I am not a coward, but I fear for my nearest and dearest, for the people who came with me from Moscow, for those who believe in me and in the president. In short, as yet it is the Mafia which is prevailing in Crimea.

Will the president be able to protect the government from this force?

Meshkov, Tsekov Express Positions

LD1609204594 Kiev UT-1 Television Network in Ukrainian 1800 GMT 16 Sep 94

[Excerpt] [Announcer] After a vote of no confidence in the Crimean Republic's present government was expressed at the Crimean Supreme Council session attention to events in the autonomy have increased again. Here is a report by our special correspondents.

[Unidentified correspondent] What sort of government should the new government be? In the opinion of the leaders of a number of groups of Crimea's Supreme Council, it should be a coalition government, a government of popular confidence, and not of just one party. They shared their opinions on this matter with journalists at a news conference. Evaluating the events of 11-12 September, the deputies unanimously called them an attempt at a coup.

Volodymyr Karpov, first assistant to the Crimean president, Vyacheslav Lebedev, Yuriy Meshkov's press secretary, and one of the president's bodyguards expressed an opposing point of view, justifying the president's actions, live on Crimean television.

Serhiy Tsekov, Crimea's Supreme Council chairman, comments on the course of events in Crimea especially for Ukrainian television news:

[Begin Tsekov recording, in Russian] We cannot agree to the zero option, which has been proposed to us. We explain this, above all, by the fact that Crimea's Supreme Council adopted laws on 7th and 8th September that are entirely in line with the Constitution and legislation of the Crimean Republic. What the president adopted is entirely illegal. We cannot give equal weight to the law and to illegality, because we are convinced that it is namely such a could-not-care-less attitude to the law that has led many CIS states to their present sorry state.

How will we work now? Naturally we will try to come to an agreement with the president. From this aspect we are conducting the corresponding work. Yesterday [15 September] we expressed a vote of no confidence in the government and we acted entirely correctly because in eight months it has practically not been formed, and in my view it did nothing to make it possible for Crimea to get out of that most complicated economic situation, which the republic is in. In the near future we will be forming a coalition government or a government of popular confidence, well, it is being called various things. The fact is that there will not be a single party government. [end recording]

[Correspondent] Here is an interview with Yuriy Meshkov, president of Crimea, for the Ukrainian television news.

[Begin Meshkov, recording, in Russian] My standpoint entirely coincides with the point of view of Leonid Danylovych Kuchma, president of Ukraine, which is also supported, as far as I know, by the standpoint of Oleksandr Oleksandrovych Moroz, Ukraine's Supreme Council chairman. I believe that it is necessary to resolve this conflict namely through the patterns proposed by them, that is, a return to the so-called zero option and the revocation of the decision of Crimea's Supreme Council connected with the limitation of powers of Crimea's president, for Crimea's president was not granted these powers by the Supreme Council, and in spite of all of the attempts to somehow argue this, they are insufficiently convincing. Therefore, there is no other way to normalize the situation. I will simply express gratitude to Ukraine's leadership for its timely and entirely authoritative intervention in the processes that took place in Crimea. That undoubtedly ensured the stabilization of the situation. Now the resolution of this conflict is possible, too. [end recording]

[Correspondent] A special Ukrainian Supreme Council commission arrived in Simferopol on today. Talks with Crimean Supreme Council deputies have begun. [passage omitted]

Tsekov 'Ready To Talk' With Meshkov

LD1609173494 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1602 GMT 16 Sep 94

[Text] Sergey Tsekov, chairman of the Crimean parliament, is prepared to talk with President Yuriy Meshkov, Ukrainian president's special envoy Yevgeniy Marchuk, Ukrainian deputy prime minister, and other political figures so as to resolve the crisis as soon as possible. He told Interfax Friday that neither he nor the Crimean parliament had ever rejected negotiations.

He emphasized, however, that the Crimean deputies would insist that all unconstitutional decrees issued by Meshkov be rescinded.

Tsekov said that he had held talks Friday with a Ukrainian parliamentary delegation headed by Yuriy Karmazin, arriving in Crimea to get a first-hand view of the situation.

He went on to say that Marchuk had two round of talks with Meshkov Friday morning. There has been no word on the meeting. Marchuk is expected to meet with Tsekov Friday afternoon.

Asked how it happened that members of the same team found themselves on different sides of the fence, Tsekov said that Meshkov had turned his back on his followers, not the other way round. Tsekov believed that Meshkov had just got carried away.

Conflict Seeen As Start of National Struggle

LD1609202194 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1812 GMT 16 Sep 94

["INTERFAX-UKRAINE" news item]

[Text] Crimean Minister for State Affairs Viktor Minin, dismissed by the parliament on Thursday, said he considers the conflict in Crimea as the "early beginning of a power struggle in Ukraine." Minin said in an exclusive interview with Interfax that only opponents of Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma are interested in dismissing Crimean President Yuriy Meshkov and the government.

Minin repeated that more than 80 percent of Crimean voters had voted for Kuchma during the presidential elections this summer.

Minin said that this was a large contribution to votes canvassed in support of Kuchma. He said that Meshkov, Saburov and Minin are all faithful supporters who had done everything possible to have Kuchma elected the Ukrainian President.

Minin said he believes that in this struggle for power "almost everything will depend on who the power ministries and the regional heads will support." Minin said that unfortunately support for Kuchma is not that clear despite the recent reshuffling.

Minin said that some conclusions on the problem could be drawn after the talks between representatives of the Crimean president and the parliament under the mediation of the Ukrainian president's Special Envoy Vice Premier Yevgeniy Marchuk (the former chairman of the Ukrainian Security Service).

The talks are now underway in Simferopol.

Minin said that in Crimea we witness a power struggle, control over the economy and the right to be in charge of property. "To be in charge of it without any checks one must do something about the government and the president," Minin said.

Minin Apologizes To Kuchma for Misquote

LD1609193094 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1812 GMT 16 Sep 94

[Text] Head of the State Affairs Service of Crimea Viktor Minin has expressed formal apologies to Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma for misquoting him in media interviews.

In a letter to the Ukrainian leader, Minin said he was sorry about having made statements which led to media speculations about Kuchma's support for the Crimean president's actions.

"What I in fact implied was President Meshkov's plan of action for reverting to the status quo that existed before tension broke out", says the letter.

Supreme Court Cannot Rule on Meshkov Edicts

LD1609173994 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1511 GMT 16 Sep 94

["INTERFAX-UKRAINE" news item]

[Text] The Crimean Supreme Court has no legal authority to rule on the constitutionality of the decrees recently announced by President Yuriy Meshkov.

This decision was made at the September 15 meeting of the court presidium.

The Crimean parliament had asked the presidium to hand out a ruling on the constitutionality of the decrees suspending parliament and local legislatures and appointing heads of local administration.

Under Article 14 of the legislation on the Crimean presidency passed in October 1993, the Supreme Court Presidium has to act for the Constitutional Court until this is set up. The presidium ruled that the legislation was in contravention of the Crimean Constitution under which the Constitutional Court alone could pass judgment on constitutionality.

For this reason the Supreme Court Presidium could not pass judgment on the constitutionality of legal acts adopted by parliament or president.

The presidium suggested that the parliament align Article 14 of the legislation on the presidency with the Crimean Constitution.

Analyst Warns of Russian Military Intervention

AU1609181394 Kiev MOLOD UKRAYINY in Ukrainian 13 Sep 94 p 1

["Political Forecast" by Oleh Soskin, deputy director of the Institute of World Economy and International Relations at the Ukrainian National Academy of Sciences, recorded by student Olena Petrenko: "How Will the Crimean Events Develop and How Do They Threaten Ukraine?"]

[Text] Let us assess this situation objectively. If the Black Sea Fleet, a considerable part of which is subordinated to the Russian Federation, had not been in the Crimea, the events there could have been settled peacefully—without the great armed force that would promote confrontation. However, since the fleet is there, nobody knows how it will behave. Moreover, even Russia cannot fully control it. Just recall, has Russia been able to keep the 14th Army, still deployed in the Dniester region, under control? No, it has not It took much time for the situation there to settle down more or less. And who can compare the 14th Army to the Black Sea Fleet?

Taking into account the decision made by the Sevastopol Council of People's Deputies that Sevastopol is Russian territory, which was supported by the Crimean Supreme Council, we can predict what this may lead to. Sevastopol being Russian territory, if the fire of conflict between the Crimean Supreme Council and the Crimean president spreads to Sevastopol, what will we have? We will have interference from Russia, a foreign state, in Ukraine's internal affairs.

The Crimea today is an internal constituent part of Ukraine, not a state. Moreover, I do not understand how agreements may be signed between Ukraine and the Crimea. The Crimea is not a subject of international law—with whom must we sign documents?! With an oblast? Well, let us then sign agreements with all the oblasts, cities, and rayons. The Crimea is a constituent part of Ukraine, and it has occupied this position of having turned into a republic only as a result of the previous president's poorly considered policy. That is all. The Crimea is a Ukrainian oblast. It is necessary for everybody to realize that no state may be built there, because there are no objective grounds for this. My forecast and wishes are as follows: It is necessary to prevent any bloodshed and it is necessary to see to it that the two branches of Crimea's executive somehow reconcile themselves and stop exacerbating the situation. Otherwise there may be two alternative trends in the development of events: The Russian fleet will intervene, and this will mean an international military conflict and interference in Ukraine's internal affairs. Or Ukrainian troops will have to be brought into the Crimea to establish order in the oblast.

Preventive Detention of Criminals Begins

LD1609211294 Kiev UT-1 Television Network in Ukrainian 1800 GMT 16 Sep 94

[No video available]

[Text] [Correspondent] A comprehensive preventative operation to step up the safeguarding of civic order began on the Crimean Peninsula today. Over 300 militia employees from other regions and employees from the operational services of Ukraine's Internal Affairs Ministry are taking part in it. On the basis of operational data, the militia is carrying out searches and preventive detention of members of criminal groupings, and the locations of concentrations of offenders are being worked out. Vitaliy Kyrychenko, acting head of the Main Internal Affairs Directorate of Ukraine's Internal Affairs Ministry in Crimea, tells of the first results of the operation:

[Begin Kyrychenko recording, in Russian] This is not just some kind of campaign, this will be a constant measure. We will not allow any kinds of hooligans to live peacefully. [end recording]

Sevastopol Mayor: Decision Was an 'Outcry of Despair'

LD1709214094 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 2118 GMT 17 Sep 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Roman Zadunaiskiy]

[Text] Moscow September 18 TASS—"Our decision to accept the Russian status of Sevastopol was an outcry of despair," Sevastopol city Mayor Viktor Semyonov told the news conference on Friday. "We will not raise political questions at our sessions in future, as we have come to a head with the latest political decision," he said. TASS learnt this at the Black Sea Fleet press centre. Semyonov said it is Russia that should pay the city from its budget, as 110,000 servicemen of the Black Sea Fleet live in Sevastopol enjoy all municipal services, including transport, kindergartens, schools, etc. However, Russia will not be capable of granting credits to the city, he said.

The city mayor also fears that the decision on Sevastopol's combined status of a Russian city and the major base of the Black Sea Fleet might do harm to the latter. The Ukrainian Navy stationing in the city was erroneous anyway, he stressed.

Edict Revokes Sevastopol Mayor's Property Directive

LD1609181694 Kiev UT-1 Television Network in Ukrainian 1600 GMT 16 Sep 94

[Text] The president of Ukraine has issued an edict revoking the instruction by the chairman of the Sevastopol City Council of People's Deputies of 21 July 1994, Number 29, on temporarily halting the privatization and lease of statewide and communal property on the territory of the city of Sevastopol, as such that runs counter to the Constitution of Ukraine and the laws of Ukraine on local councils of people's deputies and local and regional self- government, on the formation of local bodies of power and self-government, and on property. The edict becomes valid from the day of its signing.

BSF Commander Reaffirms Single Fleet Stance

LD1709142594 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1100 GMT 17 Sep 94

[Text] On 17 September, SLAVA SEVASTOPOLYA published an interview with Admiral Eduard Baltin, commander of the Black Sea Fleet. The interview appears before a Russian-Ukrainian summit in Kiev, which is to decide on the future of the Black Sea Fleet.

The admiral confirms his opinion that the fleet should be a single force in the interests of both Ukraine and Russia. He believes that there should be unity between the Black Sea Fleet and Sevastopol, as otherwise "the city will face disaster, a social explosion."

Baltin argues that "every fifth resident of Sevastopol somehow or other has a material connection with the fleet, i.e. is a member of an officer's or a warrant officer's family, a worker, engineer, or technician at military firms, or one of the sea-going personnel on board auxiliary vessels, with their pay from Russia two or two and a half times that of a Ukrainian employee."

The admiral maintains that "the fleet is now commissioning a quarter of Crimea's housing construction" and that "it accounts for 30 percent of all the city's heating capacity."

Baltin goes on to say that the Black Sea Fleet in the first six months paid almost 232 billion karbovantsi to Ukraine's budget, which, however, represents only half of what the fleet was to have contributed to the state budget but failed to do so because of the shortage of funds. The conclusion the admiral draws is that "the Black Sea Fleet has been de facto renting its main base since the end of last year."

The problem of the Black Sea Fleet, according to Baltin, can be resolved "only by means of unity and convergence between the two Slavonic nations in the economic, political, and military spheres." At the same time, he hopes that "Ukraine's new leadership will adopt a new way of thinking in their relations with Russia, contain the ambitions of the national patriots, and understand that the achievement of state independence is a matter of many years: It cannot be decreed at the expense of other Slavonic peoples."

Kiev Accepts IMF Requirements With Slight Amendments

LD1709164794 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1508 GMT 17 Sep 94

[Text] Ukraine basically accepts the requirements put forward by the International Monetary Fund (IMF), but with slight corrections stipulated by its specific features, Ukrainian Parliamentary Speaker Oleksandr Moroz told an IMF delegation headed by its second European department director, John Odling-Smee, in Kiev Saturday.

The fund's main requirements include lowering inflation rate, budget deficit at the expense of curbing subsidies to the fuel and energy complex and agriculture and spendings on social needs. To obtain an IMF credit, Ukraine must take measures to liberalize prices, stabilize the industrial production, speed up privatization and stop to back the karbovanets against main foreign currencies.

At the same time, Moroz said during the meeting that "it was dangerous to sharply reduce funds set aside for social needs." He said subsidies to the industries and agriculture could not be entirely curbed, while the immediate liberalization of the karbovanets will lead to uncontrolled exports of raw materials out of the country.

Odling-Smee pointed out that "it was possible to work with the current Ukrainian government" and supported its new program which envisions a reduction of the budget deficit by twice, from 200 to 100 trillion karbovantsy.

Ukraine and the IMF agreed they had common goals and their differences related to the mechanism of their implementation.

Odling-Smee pointed out that granting credits will be the focus of a special meeting during the next IMF session in Madrid. The meeting will also be attended by representatives from Russia and Turkmenistan as Ukraine's main creditors.

Cabinet of Ministers on Jan-Aug Economic Situation

LD1709163894 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1100 GMT 17 Sep 94

[Text] Kiev [no date as received]—The Cabinet of Ministers' main directorate on economic reform released data on 17 September analyzing the state of the economy in Ukraine between January and August 1994.

The economic situation remains extremely tense, with the fall in production in most sectors of the national economy continuing, investment activity decreasing, the payments crisis escalating, and, as a result, enterprises' and organizations' financial position deteriorating.

The national income in the first eight months of 1994 was 19 percent less than 1993 figures.

At the same time, industry recovered somewhat. The volume of industrial production in August rose by 3.9 percent over the previous month. However, between January and August manufactured goods fell by 32.7 percent against last year's figures.

The aggregate budget revenue between January and July was 200.1 trillion karbovantsi. To finance an interim cash difference between the budget's expenditure and revenue, the Finance Ministry was provided with a within-the-year [vnutrishnyorichnyy] National Bank credit in the sum of 44.3 trillion karbovantsi. Taking this into account, the aggregate budget revenue came to 244.4 trillion karbovantsi.

With National Bank of Ukraine credits taken into consideration, the state budget's revenue between January and July was 176.1 trillion karbovantsi and expenditures were 164.2 trillion karbovantsi.

The supply of money in circulation in these seven months increased 2.5 times to top 128 trillion karbovantsi on 1 August. Monetary emission between January and August was 32.1 trillion karbovantsi or 12.2 times that in the comparable period last year, including 4.1 trillion karbovantsi in August, or 40 percent less than in July.

The total volume of credit investments by the banks into the Ukrainian economy, that is, the debt for credits in national currency, on 1 August was 164.1 trillion karbovantsi, including 71.6 trillion by the National Bank, 92.3 trillion by commercial banks, and 187 billion by former USSR commercial bank branches. Nearly 24 trillion karbovantsi worth of credits in foreign currency were made available by commercial banks.

The proportion of commercial bank credits in their total amount on 1 August was 56 percent.

The volume of the inter-enterprise debt payable in Ukraine went up by 2.2 times to 275 trillion karbovantsi at the beginning of August, with the volume of debts receivable up 2.4 times, to 238.4 trillion karbovantsi.

The proportion of long-term commercial bank credits became somewhat larger since the beginning of the year.

The amount of the inter-enterprise arrears payable under mutual settlements and bank loans between January and August was up 6.6 times.

Preliminary data suggests that industrial products' wholesale prices rose by 1.9 times since the beginning of this year.

Agricultural produce's purchase prices between January and August rose by 12 percent.

Individual income in July compared to last December increased by 1.9 times to 39 trillion karbovantsi. National economy workers' and employees' monthly pay in July averaged 1,108,300 karbovantsi, or 6.2 percent more than in June of this year. Wages were the highest at nuclear power stations and in the finance, credit, insurance, coal, oil extraction, aviation transport, underground, and construction industries; and the lowest in social security, public catering, consumer services, and housing organizations.

A selection of 22 staple foods on average in Ukraine on 6 September was valued at 586,800 karbovantsi per capita, up 42.2 percent compared to the beginning of this year, including 1.2 percent in August compared to July.

Ukraine's total foreign trade volume between January and July was $11.35 billion, including $5.532 billion in exports and $5.817 billion, with a deficit of $285 million. The volume of trade with countries of the former USSR in these seven months was $7.638 billion, with a deficit of $1.507 million. Foreign trade turnover with other foreign countries was $3.712 billion, with a credit balance of $1.222 billion.

New Deputy Foreign Economics Minister Appointed

LD1709162894 Kiev UNIAR in Ukrainian 1535 GMT 17 Sep 94

[Text] Kiev, 17 Sep—By an edict of the president of Ukraine, Anatoliy Shcherbatyuk has been appointed deputy minister of foreign economic relations of Ukraine.

Kuchma Sets Advisers for Macroeconomic Policy

LD1609202394 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1800 GMT 16 Sep 94

[Text] Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma has issued an edict on organizational support for the preparation of proposals dealing with macroeconomic policy and economic reform. In compliance with this edict, a collegium of advisers on the macroeconomy has been set up under the president of Ukraine. The main task of the collegium is to organize preparations and to prepare proposals concerning long-term tasks of the state's economic policy and procedures for its implementation.

Also, a group of scientific consultants of the president of Ukraine is being set up within the staff of the president's administration. There will be five consultants in this group to deal with issues of structural policy, financial and monetary policy, social policy, institutional policy, and foreign policy.

Economic Adviser Views Financial Policy

WS1609101594 Kiev URYADOVYY KURYER in Ukrainian 10 Sep 94 p 3

[Interview with Anatoliy Stepanovych Halchynskyy, Ukrainian presidential adviser for macroeconomic issues, by Leonid Samsonenko; place and date not given: "A Balanced Stage-by-Stage Price Liberalization Is Necessary"]

[Text] [Samsonenko] Anatoliy Stepanovych, there have recently been many conversations concerning new price hikes. What is your attitude toward this issue?

[Halchynskyy] In my opinion, there are two aspects to this question:

First, certain people involved are attempting to incite panic among the people and thus provoke new expectations of inflation, which are supposed to break the relative stabilization of prices which came about last month. It is sad that certain officials, deputies, and even scientists have joined these "big mouths." Inflation represents a redistribution of national wealth, impoverishment of many sectors of society, and prosperity for few. As one businessmen put it, inflation over the last six months of last year was a golden time for everyone who was clever and able to "make" money. In this regard, it is very important that the mass media also take a balanced position.

Another thing is that a high potential for inflation has been accumulated in our economy due to the former policy. This relates to our budget deficit, various subsidies that exceed 30 percent of the budget, and other factors. For instance, more than 90 percent of the municipal services for the people and almost 95 percent of public transportation are covered from the budget. This list of state expenditures can go on and on. In addition to that, according to Finance Ministry estimates, budget expenditures will increase from 45 percent of GNP in 1994 to 86.7 percent of GNP this year, which will help our readers understand the real state of affairs in our country's finances. One becomes awed by these figures. While in 1980, under the former Soviet administrative system, 63.7 percent of GNP was redistributed through the budget, 80 out of every 100 karbovanets [Krb] is currently being redistributed to state officials. To where have we come and where are we going? This is a result of the former administration's string-pulling. Of course, these problems, as the saying goes, must be rectified. We are currently searching for ways of resolving them. I am convinced that the situation here is not hopeless.

[Samsonenko] What about prices for bread? How will this problem be resolved?

[Halchynskyy] This question also has two aspects—a political one and a strictly economic one. The price for bread is a great state policy, and decisions in this regard must be made by the country's political leadership. Regarding the economic side of the issue, the situation is as follows: On the one hand, we have a substantial drop in gross grain production, on the other hand, prices for bread in Ukraine are four or five times lower than in Russia and Belarus. As we all know, Kazakhstan has recently announced a more than ten-fold increase in bread prices. The Economy Ministry estimates that if prices for bread are maintained at the current level, the budget deficit will swell to almost Krb 20 trillion. At the same time, with regard to this issue, I would like to say the following. In my opinion, the narrowest bottleneck in our state's economic policy is the conservatism of agrarian policy. If we do not find efficient ways to thoroughly reform this sphere, we cannot talk about real economic progress. Weak points in this sector have accumulated over dozens of years, and mere cosmetic renovation will produce nothing. For three consecutive years, credits for harvesting have been hampering the stabilization of prices. This, in turn, has had an upsetting impact on agriculture. This is a policy without prospects.

[Samsonenko] We have, however, a quite ample representation of the agricultural sector in parliament, and there are expectations that efficient ways of resolving this problem will be found.

[Halchynskyy] Although it is true, still, something contradictory is taking place. Although there were as many as two agrarian commissions in the former parliament, the results, in terms of real reforms to the system of agrarian relations, were close to nothing. There was nothing but noise coming from the microphones. I am stating this as an economist, a scientist, and as a man who has been dealing with issues of macroeconomic reforms for many years. I would not like to see this recur in the current Supreme Council. This is extremely dangerous. I could prove this by citing specific figures. I can provide them. This is a topic, however, for a special conversation. I will only say that the current profitability of agricultural production exceeds by three times the profitability of industrial production, which is, by the way, also very high (taking into account the current crisis). Still, the microphones continue to spew out the well-known slogans—"Everything to support the countryside." What will be next, what will be the future steps—all this hangs in the air.

[Samsonenko] Much talk is currently centered around the presidential edict on hard currency regulations. People say that it has led to the recent price hikes and plunge in the karbovanets exchange rate...

[Halchynskyy] This does not correspond to reality. The force of the edict has not yet gained momentum. As a matter of fact, provided that its primary provisions are implemented in full, the edict has a deflationary potential. This is unequivocal. I have already stated this, and if someone really understands these issues, he will not deny it. The rise of the dollar's market exchange rate may be merely temporary. It will then fall. The people and appropriate economic organizations must also be aware of this. It is currently convenient for certain circles to fuel passions surrounding this issue.

[Samsonenko] I have one more question. To what degree is the liberalization of external economic activities, which is currently taking place, related to the problems we are discussing?

[Halchynskyy] Regarding the liberalization, we have so far done very little. In general, I can unequivocally state that steps in this direction, which are currently being developed, will improve the overall economic situation and slow down inflationary processes. In this area, however, not everything is clear either. I am presenting my own position. I have an impression that, regarding this issue, the price imbalance between Russia and Ukraine has not been taken into account. Consider the following: Over the last four years, prices for gas in Ukraine have increased 55 times more than in Russia, for oil—28 times. Therefore, on the one hand, there is the problem of competitiveness of our goods, on the other hand, there is the possibility of price intervention on the part of Russia's economic structures. I would not like to absolutize this problem. There are ways of resolving it. An economic policy in this regard must be quite balanced and, first and foremost, economically sound. We cannot allow ourselves to apply the principle of a pendulum—to exchange one extreme for the another. This means that the liberalization does not rule out but, to the contrary, envisions the establishment of an efficient mechanism for protecting the national market.

[Samsonenko] Nevertheless, what are the prospects regarding prices? What trends are emerging?

[Halchynskyy] The point is again a correct understanding of this issue: This is, of course, balanced, gradual, and by no means delayed liberalization of prices and a partial, at first, then adequate, and finally forestalling rise in the people's wages. This is basically my position, which I am, and will be advocating. According to the Economy Ministry data, in general, different forms of state regulations have been applied to 80 percent of the current prices and tariffs. This causes a budget deficit. This is also the "wealth" that our predecessors left us. Last summer, the share of regulated prices did not exceed 40 percent. I recently visited Denmark, where there are perhaps the highest living standards in Europe. The Danish model means high prices, a highly valued workforce, and, respectively, high wages. This principle must become the foundation of our economic reforms. It is now essential to find ways of increasing the people's solvent demand [platospromozhnyy popyt]. This is the foothold of a way out of the economic crisis. This requires a deep reform of the system of labor remuneration and incomes and a price reform—the development of efficient and economic, but not administrative, levers to affect the proportions of prices. I would dare say that this can only be done by conducting a deep structural monetary reform. A combination of these reforms could become a significant factor of overall economic stabilization, about which we all are talking all of the time.

Entrepreneurs Move To Speed Market Reform

LD1809002894 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1530 GMT 17 Sep 94

[Text] Kiev [no date as received]—The fourth session of the Ukrainian National Assembly of Entrepreneurs [UNAP], which took place on 16 September, was crowned by the adoption of a resolution proposing to the government and the president of Ukraine to set up a National Agency of Entrepreneurship (NAP) on the basis of the current state entrepreneurship and public associations. Vasyl Yevtukhov, former deputy prime minister of Ukraine and president of the Ukrainian Union of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs, was proposed to head NAP. UNAP President Volodymyr Sumin, Serhiy Pohorelov, president of the League of Enterprises with Foreign Capital, and Petro Miroshnykov, chairman of the commercial bank "INKO", will be included in the composition.

The resolution expresses support for the policy of the National Bank of Ukraine geared to curbing inflation and contains a proposal to set up a council for economic and legal policy under the president of Ukraine. According to UNAP President Sumin, the setting up of new entrepreneurial structures will allow the entrepreneurial circles to influence the policy of the state more effectively.

Deputy Economy Minister Lada Pavlyukovska reported on the progress of privatization in Ukraine. According to her, over the six months of 1994 (before the Supreme Council's moratorium on privatization), more enterprises had been privatized than over the two previous years (2,500 enterprises in 1992, 3,500 in 1993, and 7,500 in 1994). In the opinion of the majority of entrepreneurs, self-privatization must become one of the main components of market reforms.

During his conversation with a UNIAN correspondent, "INKO" Bank President Miroshnykov pointed out that the interests of commercial banks on the one hand and medium-sized and small-sized businesses on the other hand had begun to diverge of late. In his opinion, the setting up of financial and industrial groups could become an option for interaction between commercial banks and entrepreneurs. Meanwhile, the creation of a structure for the insurance activity of the production sphere would allow the reduction of credit rates. According to Miroshnykov, all this could contribute to a more effective use of finances.

Oil, Gas Enterprises Overfulfill State Contract

LD1809215394 Kiev UNIAR in Ukrainian 2115 GMT 18 Sep 94

[Text] In the first six months of 1994, Ukraine's oil and gas enterprises extracted 2.1 million tons of oil and condensate and 9.2 billion cu.m. of gas. This enabled them to overfulfill the state contract for oil and gas concentrate by 133,700 tons and to fulfill the state order for natural gas by 100 percent.

So far the state is in a position to be self-sufficient in oil by 10 percent and gas by 20 percent.

Premier Calls for Energy Saving Measures

LD1609180194 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1410 GMT 16 Sep 94

["INTERFAX-UKRAINE" news item]

[Text] Prime Minister Vitaliy Masol in a speech at the national energy conference in Kiev on Thursday described the current energy situation in Ukraine as dramatic.

He said that electricity cuts to debtor plants was an objective necessity.

Masol instructed the energy ministry to negotiate the schedules of fuel delivery with suppliers so as to ensure ample stocks of fuel by November 1. He also called for private capital and commercial resources to be used for energy imports.

The prime minister thinks it necessary to impose energy-saving measures over the coming autumn and winter.

He blamed energy shortages on the nuclear industry's poor performance in the second half of this year. It is now working at just a 30 percent of its capacity.

The industry's troubles are caused by the shortage of nuclear fuel imported from Russia and scant supply of spare parts and components.

The prime minister also spoke of dwindling supplies for power stations fired by coal and oil fuel.

He said that energy production fell by 40 percent while consumption dropped only by 20 percent, an indication that the domestic industry is energy-intensive.

URP Leader Urges Union of 'Three or Four' Parties

WS1609123294 Kiev VECHIRNIY KYYIV in Ukrainian 10 Sep 94 p 1

[Interview with Ukrainian Republican Party Chairman Mykhaylo Horyn by unidentified reporter; place and date not given: "We Should Consolidate the Nation"]

[Text] [Reporter] The fifth congress of the Ukrainian Republican Party [URP] began in Kiev on 10 September. What do you expect from it?

[Horyn] We are building the state and, at the same time, we have to take measures for reviving and consolidating the Ukrainian nation. Without this, it will be very difficult to overcome the economic crisis and win prosperity for our people. Regional approach to the principal system of national values is dangerous for our young state. When leaflets are disseminated in Odessa saying that "It is better to live well than die independently," when the top official has the nerve to say that "the state is not an icon," it means that now, in the fourth year of our independence, we are witnessing an evident, straightforward neglect of the state's role, typical of nations which have not had their statehood for too long. The state is both an icon and something more than that. It is worth fighting for, and even dying.

I hope that the fifth congress of the URP will discuss the principal theses of the nation's consolidation, which is one of the most relevant factors for overcoming our difficulties and consolidating the state. I also hope that the congress will pass appropriate documents.

[Reporter] What is the status of the attempts to unite republicans and democrats?

[Horyn] This time, we approached this issue from the practical side. We held a joint session of the URP leadership and the Democratic Party of Ukraine Presidium and resolved to convene conferences of the two parties' oblast and rayon organizations. We want to see whether this will not cause discord within the ranks of the latter. The republicans have no reservations. For instance, on 3 September the Kharkov Oblast URP branch passed a resolution appealing for the unification of several parties. This opinion is popular in other branches, too. Not just two, but three or four parties representing the national-democratic trend, should unite to form a powerful political force. It is time we joined our efforts to achieve success. We know from the history of the creation of the Organization of Ukrainian Nationalists [OUN] in 1929 that by joint efforts of several parties success can be achieved. Yevhen Konovalets [OUN founder] managed to form one party from three political forces. We feel that this will not be an easy task. We know in advance that there might be a competition of ambitions. However, the spirit of the times is knocking on our door, demanding that we make this vital historic step.

Republic's Muslims See Ukraine as Their Homeland

LD1809141194 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1200 GMT 18 Sep 94

[Text] The first congress of Ukraine's Muslims continued its work in Kiev today with a round table debate. Delegations from Lebanon, Saudi Arabia, Turkey, Russia, Switzerland, and other states of the near and far abroad are taking part in it. The forms and methods of practical activity by Muslim communities and their concrete participation in the processes, which are currently occurring in Ukraine, are being discussed. It was particularly stressed that Ukraine had become a true homeland for Muslims and that they should work for the sake of its prosperity. The discussion is also about the organizational unification of Muslims and about stepping up the propagation of Islam as a factor in the spiritual and moral education of the individual. The congress recognized one of the main directions in the activity of Muslim communities to be the course towards strengthening friendship between all of the nationalities living in Ukraine.

Insurgents Deny Support to Kravchuk Prior to Election

LD1809115594 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1100 GMT 17 Sep 94

[Text] Ternopol—The "Lysoya" oblast organization of the Brotherhood of the Ukrainian Insurgent Army [UPA] soldiers in Podolye region issued a statement on 16 September to express a resolute protest in connection with the "fabrications resorted to by the authorized representatives of the ex-president and Leonid Kravchuk himself" running for Ukraine's Supreme Council deputy in Terebovlyanskiy constituency No. 364. The statement says that the above representatives and the ex-president maintain that the Brotherhood of the Ukrainian Insurgent Army soldiers allegedly sides with the ex-president in his parliamentary election campaign. An election leaflet with an appeal by political parties and public organizations to the electors to vote in favor of Kravchuk's candidacy was published, with the Brotherhood of the Ukrainian Insurgent Army soldiers mentioned in the list of the organizations which signed it.

The statement by the oblast organization of the Brotherhood of the Ukrainian Insurgent Army soldiers indicates that the Brotherhood cannot campaign in support of the ex-president as it supports his rival, member of the Ukrainian Conservative Republican Party Mykola Novosilskyy, whose authorized representative is Petro Kasinchuk, the chairman of the Brotherhood. Besides, the statement indicates, the Ukrainian Insurgent Army soldiers cannot have much liking for Kravchuk, because he did nothing in the capacity of the president to help recognize the Ukrainian Insurgent Army as a warring side in the Second World War, despite UPA's repeated requests to do so.

Official Says Nuclear Power Plants Almost Out of Fuel

LD1609172494 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1242 GMT 16 Sep 94

[Text] Ukrainian nuclear power stations badly need both nuclear fuel and funds to import it from Russia, Nur Nigmatulin, deputy head of the country's Atomic Energy Committee, said.

Speaking at the national energy conference in Kiev on Thursday, he said that with emergency supplies running out, the plants were running on whatever fuel was delivered.

Nigmatulin said that the nuclear industry had received only a fraction of the 1.2 trillion karbovantsy in subsidies promised by the government.

He said that Ukraine had received only 180 of the 250 fuel assemblies to be supplied under a joint declaration by the presidents of Ukraine, Russia and the United States for 1994.

A total of 550 and 800 assemblies are needed for VVR-1000 and RMBK [high-power pressure tube type reactors] type reactors respectively, Nigmatulin said.

He also said that Kiev had repaid only a quarter of its debt for nuclear fuel imports from Russia.

Russia is expected to more than double nuclear fuel exports to Ukraine next year, but this can hardly cover all of the country's needs, Nigmatulin said.

Belarus

Lukashenka's Trip to Lithuania Delayed

WS1909095194 Minsk BELAPAN in English 1400 GMT 16 Sep 94

[Text] According to the BELAPAN correspondent bureau in Vilnius, President of Belarus Alyaksandr Lukashenka's visit to Lithuania for signing an interstate political treaty has been adjourned for an uncertain period. On September 19-22, President of Lithuania Algirdas Brazauskas leaves for Bonn, and then for the United States. At a press conference which was held the other day, K. Bobelis, chairman of the Lithuanian Seimas's committee of foreign affairs, informed journalists that the interstate political treaty between Belarus and Lithuania will not be signed till an agreement on delimitation of the frontier is not reached. Among the main obstacles to the signing of such an agreement there is the establishment of frontier demilitarization zones 30-40 kilometers deep on both sides of the Belarusian-Lithuanian frontier. Vilnius is also to be included into one of these zones. However, K. Bobelis pointed out that the Lithuanian capital would not be demilitarized.

Foreign Trade Minister on Prague Embassy

AU1609150594 Prague RUDE PRAVO in Czech 13 Sep 94 pp 1, 4

[Interview with Belarusian Foreign Trade Minister Mikhail Marinich by Katerina Perknerova; place and date not given: "We Want To Revive the Economic Relations With the Czech Republic"]

[Excerpt] Mikhail Marinich was appointed the first Belarusian ambassador to the Czech Republic. He was to present his letters of accreditation to President Havel today, 13 September. But before this could take place, he was appointed Belarusian minister of external economic relations.

[Perknerova] Belarus chose Prague for its first representative office at ambassadorial level for the Czech Republic, Slovakia, and Hungary. Why?

[Marinich] Although Belarus is one of the UN founding countries and a member from the very beginning, independent Belarusian diplomacy is only now being formed. For this reason, we are endeavoring to expand the number of our missions abroad to the maximum. I believe that relations with the Czech Republic have good prospects and therefore we selected Prague as the basis for one of them. A diplomatic representation for several countries is a common practice. Belarus has resorted to it, above all, for financial reasons. [passage omitted]

Premier Says Economy in Structural Crisis

LD1709105694 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1650 GMT 16 Sep 94

[By BELINFORM for TASS]

[Excerpt] Minsk, 16 Sep —The economy of Belarus is affected by a deep structural crisis, Prime Minister Mikhail Chyhir stated at today's conference of the heads of local authorities in Belarus.

Among the indications of the crisis the prime minister singled out a 26 percent fall in the gross domestic product; an increase in inflation which peaked at 53.4 percent in August of this year; a drying up of investments; deterioration of equipment; an increase in external indebtedness which will total nearly $2 billion by the end of the year; and a sharp reduction in exports.

The major industries present a depressing picture. In the chemical and petrochemical industries, output in the first eight months of the year fell by 26 percent. The production of nitrogen and phosphate fertilizers declined by 54 percent, tires by 33 percent, manmade fibers by 30 percent. [passage omitted]

Lukashenka To Present Economic Anticrisis Plan

LD1809160294 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1302 GMT 18 Sep 94

[Text] On September 27 the Belarussian parliament is to open session in Minsk and President Alyaksandr Lukashenka is to come out with a plan to fight the ongoing economic crisis.

According to sources close to the president, Lukashenka will be likely to press parliament for a resolution under which his decrees will be regarded as bills of law in the period of economic reform, or until January 1, 1996.

Local analysts feel, however, that tension may mount in Lukashenka-parliament relations as soon as the Supreme Soviet opens session. On August 4 Lukashenka signed a decree under which a substantial part of the parliament's, government's and the Supreme and Constitutional Courts' property changed hands to be controled by his business manager Ivan Titenkov.

On August 8 the collective presidency of the Belarussian parliament met to oppose the decree which "infringed on the national constitution". The Belarussian Constitution allows state structures a degree of independence and the right to own property.

Addresses Businessmen on Economy

LD1709181194 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1545 GMT 17 Sep 94

[Text] Belarussian [Belarusian] President Alyaksandr Lukashenka said the new republican leadership will start reconsidering the country's macroeconomic policy in the near future in order to keep down inflation. The inflation rate must be brought down to 10-11% a month by the end of the year and 7-8% in the second half of 1995 against current 30-40%.

Lukashenka told an assembly of Belarussian businessmen in Minsk Saturday that with this aim in view the republican government would pursue a policy to raise interest on credits and deposits correspondingly with the inflation rate. At the same time, he promised the taxation legislation will stimulate the industrial production.

Lukashenka said the new government's pricing policy will be more flexible.

The Belarussian ruble will be legally recognized as the only means of payment on the country's territory, he added.

Speaking on the need for immediate measures to drive the economy out of crisis, Lukashenka said its destabilization was "threatening" and "put a complicated task - how to preserve the state independence - before the president."

"Belarus must surmount the crisis using only its own resources," he emphasized.

Lukashenka dismissed the speculations that the new Belarussian leadership had chosen a "pro-Russian vector" for its foreign policy. "The president and the government are open to the West and are ready for a dialogue," Lukashenka pointed out. He recalled of the fact that since his election as president in July there were held talks with the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund "on long-term prospects of cooperation." However, "foreign aid cannot replace our own efforts in surmounting the crisis," he said.

Commenting on the progress of privatization, Lukashenka pointed out that its goal was not to "sell state property as expensive as possible, but to find it a true owner." This is the reason why the decentralization process will not be "overall, but selective and gradual," the president stressed. Lukashenka confirmed his intention to authorize the sale of land "for individual major projects" both to local and foreign investors.

President's Anticorruption Drive May 'Boomerang'

MM1609125394 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 16 Sep 94 p 2

[Report by Aleksandr Starikevich: "Lukashenka Entourage in Showdown"]

[Excerpts] Minsk—The thesis about the struggle against corruption, which President Alyaksandr Lukashenka of Belorussia [Belarus] exploited actively and successfully during his election campaign, may now boomerang on him. The first alarm bell has already sounded: One of the head of state's comrades-in-arms has found himself at the focus of attention thanks to a not altogether clear story about trading in potash fertilizers.

What do we know today? Dmitriy Bulakhov, chairman of the parliamentary commission for legislation, telephoned the "Belaruskaliy" enterprise in Soligorsk. No one is disputing this fact at the moment, or the fact that Bulakhov tried to assist in clinching a commercial deal which was to have been guaranteed by "The First Republic Investment Fund." The question revolves around the extent of the deputy's assistance and interest. There are several versions of this. [passage omitted]

At the moment the underlying political theme of this story is far more interesting. As IZVESTIYA predicted several months ago, a tough fight between the "workhorses" and the "intellectual nucleus" is under way in the president's administration. The struggle for access to the president is unsentimental, as proved by the Bulakhov story. The chairman of the parliamentary commission is by no means a straightforward figure. Nor is the "The First Republic Investment Fund," whose leader, former party secretary Alyaksandr Samankov, is mixed up in a criminal case connected with trading in bicycles. But there are far more colorful figures in this regard in the presidential administration. Therefore, if the struggle for purity in the ranks starts with Bulakhov, it will look strange to say the least. However, being an ace at political intrigues, he will most likely be able to stand up for himself. One thing puts you on your guard: People close to the president have started intriguing against each other rather early and rather thoughtlessly.

Defense Minister Kastenka Interviewed

MM1909085594 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 16 Sep 94 p 2

[Interview with Belorussian Defense Minister Colonel General Anatol Kastenka by Colonel Valeriy Kovalev in Minsk; date of interview not stated: "Belorussia: What Kind of Army We Need; Five Questions for Republic's Defense Minister Colonel General Anatol Kastenka"]

[Text] From the KRASNAYA ZVEZDA file:

A.N. Kastenka, born in 1940 in Krasnodar Kray. Graduated from Odessa combined arms command school and M.V. Frunze military academy. In 1981, after studying at the USSR Armed Forces General Staff military academy, he was appointed to the Far East Military District as commander of the machine gun and artillery division. In 1984 he became an army corps commander and in 1985 an army commander. In 1987 he became first deputy commander and in 1989 commander of the Belorussian Military District.

In May 1992 he became first deputy defense minister of Belorussia [Belarus]. In December 1992 he was released into the reserve. By a Republic of Belarus president's edict of 22 August 1994 he was appointed chief of the republic's military department.

[Kovalev] Anatoliy Ivanovich, how would you assess the present state of the republic's armed forces?

[Kastenka] In a little over two years—and this is a fact—a large amount of difficult work has been done to transform the troops of the Belorussian Military District into republican armed forces. They have undergone substantial reform and in this period the transition has been completed from their structure's former division and army system to the "brigade-corps" model. The air force has been reorganized—air bases have been created instead of divisions and regiments. At the same time the process of reduction was under way, and it continues to this day. By early 1995 the numerical strength of our army will be 90,000. In terms of branches of the armed forces it will look like this: 45,000 ground troops, 17,000 for the Air Force, and 12,000 air defense troops.

If we are speaking of troop deployment then most of the troops are concentrated in the Western oblasts—Brest and Grodno Oblasts. The second line is Vitebsk-Minsk-Bobruysk. Incidentally, it is not worth seeking, as some of your colleagues do, some political point in the fact that most of our army's forces are concentrated in the Western regions of the republic. In accordance with military doctrine we have no specific enemy now. Troops are deployed where the necessary infrastructure—military townships, barracks, test ranges, storage depots, and so forth—were created for them in the past.

[Kovalev] And you intend to make some fundamental amendments to the process of military development?

[Kastenka] Not fundamental amendments, no. Reforms for the sake of reforms, for the sake of modifying in my own style everything that has been done before? That is alien to me. But of course we cannot avoid some amendments. In particular I have been seriously worried by the substantial inflation of management structures. Right now over 1,100 servicemen and employees are working in the Defense Ministry central apparatus yet three years ago they numbered just 560 in the Belorussian Military District headquarters. And there were twice as many troops in the district. The number of general and colonel posts is unjustifiably high. Of course the ministry's functions have expanded compared with the district staff, which has entailed the emergence of new structures. Nonetheless, I think that the present staffs of the Defense Ministry apparatus can and must be reduced by 30 percent—by merging a number of directorates, reducing their status to departments and the status of departments to that of groups. We plan to carry out this work in the very near future.

Work to strengthen military discipline is in need of radical improvement. Compared with 1991, when the Belorussian Military District still existed, the number of law violations in the Armed Forces (and this with a substantial reduction in their numerical strength) has increased twice to three and one half times. There is nowhere further for us to go, as they say.

Or another problem which is giving us a headache. As of 1 January 1995, as I have already said, we must complete the reduction of the troops. But when releasing an officer into the reserve you must by law provide him with housing. In adopting the program to reduce the army, the former government did not, alas, think of earmarking sufficient funds for the purpose. Because of the lack of appropriations, of the 37 apartment blocks planned for commissioning this year we will manage to commission only 10. Yet there are over 10,500 officers without apartments who will have to continue serving. So as a minister you have to think how reductions can be fitted into the set deadline....

As you can see, the most fundamental questions of army development (the legal base, organizational staff restructuring, the creation of management structures, the deployment of troops) have mainly been resolved but many problems of a more particular nature arise which I cannot dismiss, even though I would like to. Actually can one regard as particular a problem like, for instance, the lack of a clear concept for the army's further development? In a number of CIS countries programs for military development have already been elaborated through 2000-2005. It turns out we have no such program. But can we really live only for the present? Yes, so far we still have modern weapons and combat equipment. But a little time will pass and it will all be obsolete and worn out. Already we are experiencing a shortage of spare parts and some types of material assets. And what will it be like tomorrow? Unless we look ahead we run the risk in the near future of losing our present combat potential. So I have seen to it that the elaboration of a detailed program for the armed forces' development for the period through 2005 be embarked upon immediately.

[Kovalev] Anatol Ivanovich, perhaps my next question will seem not very tactful to you but nonetheless I must put it. What was the reason for such major changes by the republic's president in the leadership of the military departments? Two thirds of the Defense Ministry collegium has been renewed and five deputy ministers have been dismissed....

[Kastenka] The decision on cadres changes was made by the president. And, of course, it would be better to put this question to Alyaksandr Grigoryevich Lukashenka. But since you have asked me I shall reply like this: My predecessor frequently asserted that our army is outside politics. Upon checking it turned out that the Defense Ministry leadership was excessively politicized. Moreover, by using its power, it was trying to drag servicemen into political games, to influence their views during the presidential elections. Naturally, to its own advantage. The professional qualities of individual leaders also played their part—there were questions here, to put it mildly.... In making the decision it must be supposed that the president also had in mind some other elements. You probably know of the serious charges which he has frequently leveled against the former defense minister and his entourage.

[Kovalev] How do you assess the state and prospects of cooperation between Belorussia and Russia in the military sphere?

[Kastenka] Some 16 treaties and agreements have been concluded between our countries on various aspects of military cooperation. Unfortunately, not all these documents are working properly because of the lack of an effective mechanism for their implementation and a most-favored nation regime, so to speak, at executive level has not been created for all of them. For instance, we have an agreement on training military cadres. But I am now faced with a dilemma: Either to send cadets and officers to train in Russia or to expand our own schools and to develop an academy as rapidly as possible. Right now we have to pay a monthly sum equivalent to $900 for the training of one of our students at the Russian General Staff Military Academy and we have to pay $550-600 to train a cadet. We have just had to reduce by 20 the number of servicemen who were to have started study at Russian academies and schools 1 September.

On the other hand I understand that the quality of training at our military academy will still take a long time to reach the Russian level since Belorussia does not yet have either its own military science or qualified teaching cadres. Where is the way out? We must seek a golden mean. We must put our own potential into operation and cooperate more actively with Russia in resolving military problems. But that is inconceivable without fundamental advances in the direction of our countries' close integration.

[Kovalev] And one last point. I should like to know your attitude toward the idea of creating unified or coalition armed forces of the CIS.

[Kastenka] For me, as indeed probably for many professionals, this idea is very attractive. Its implementation would substantially strengthen the CIS countries' defense capability and would promote their closer military integration. But we shall be realists—it is hardly feasible today or tomorrow, we have moved too far apart since 1991. Right now I think far from all republics are prepared to agree readily to the need to transfer some contingent from their armies to the staff of unified armed forces and, moreover, under a single supranational command. Actually, life is rich in surprises and I do not rule out the possibility that some events could push us toward accelerating the process of their creation. Nonetheless, I believe that this is a matter for the future. Right now the main thing is to achieve effective military cooperation within the CIS, to set up or restore destroyed links. To achieve the point where the documents already adopted at interstate level start to work.

Socialist Party Registered, Chairman Named

WS1909095894 Minsk BELAPAN in Belarusian 1400 GMT 16 Sep 94

[Text] The Ministry of Justice has registered the Belarusian Socialist Party (BSP). According to the party's regulations, it has for an object "the creation of a socialism-oriented society, construction of a legal social democratic state, creation of conditions for a fitting and happy life for the entire population of Belarus".

The supreme body of the Belarusian Socialist Party—its political committee—is headed by Vyacheslaw Kuznetsow, first deputy chairman of the Supreme Soviet of Belarus. Among the members of the BSP political committee there is Mikhail Padhayny, chairman of the Committee for Youth Affairs under the former Council of Ministers of Belarus.

PMB Admits Financing Government Newspaper

WS1909094494 Minsk BELAPAN in Belarusian 1400 GMT 16 Sep 94

[Text] The Popular Movement of Belarus (PMB), which unites a number of left-wing parties and organizations, finances the government newspaper RESPUBLIKA. In particular, the movement has so far this year remitted no less than 7 million rubles as a "charitable payment" to RESPUBLIKA—this according to a report in NOVAYA NARODNAYA GAZETA, which was founded by the PMB Coordinating Committee, appearing on September 16. The report was accompanied by copies of the actual payment orders.

Kazakhstan

Agreements Signed With Ukraine

LD1709140094 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1155 GMT 17 Sep 94

[By ITAR-TASS]

[Text] Alma-Ata [Almaty], 17 Sep—"The main thing we have to do is to resolve the question of transport tariffs for the mutual transportation of freight across Russia," Kazakhstan's Prime Minister Sergey Tereshchenko said today at talks with Ukraine's government delegation, which is headed by Prime Minister Vitaliy Masol.

The head of the Kazakhstan Government informed his colleagues of the state of affairs in the republic where, he said, large-scale privatization is taking place with more than 100 investment funds participating. Foreign firms are also being attracted to the privatization of large enterprises. A private sector is coming into being in the countryside where there are more than 20,000 private farms.

Vitaliy Masol stressed the importance of the restoration of normal economic and mutual political cooperation. Kazakhstan has much output needed by Ukraine and the other way round. Since mutual trade is being hampered because of the impossibility of mutual payments, it is necessary to place the emphasis on commercial structures and businessmen. The problem of the transportation of freight through Russia can and must be tackled through joint talks with Russia, he said.

Ukraine's prime minister met with Kazakhstan's President Nursultan Nazarbayev and Supreme Council Chairman Abish Kekilbayev. During his conversation with the parliament's speaker, Vitaliy Masol invited a Kazakhstan delegation to take part in the festivities that will take place in Ukraine on 7 and 8 October on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of its liberation from fascism.

Afterwards intergovernmental agreements on trade and economic cooperation for the year 1995, on assistance, and on the mutual protection of investments were signed.

On the same day the Ukrainian delegation left for Kiev.

Premier Receives Lithuanian Delegation

LD1609162294 Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network in Lithuanian 1100 GMT 16 Sep 94

[Text] The Lithuanian official government delegation led by Prime Minister Adolfas Slezevicius is visiting Kazakhstan.

Prime Minister of Kazakhstan Sergey Tereshchenko has received in Almaty a group of Lithuanian businessmen who arrived to establish contacts with Kazakhstani firms, ELTA was told by the government press attache. This meeting has not been planned in the agenda of the country's government leader, but Tereshchenko wished to meet businessmen trading with his country not for the first year now. At the same time it was a kind of reply to the discussion by the Lithuanian Government delegation, led by Adolfas Slezevicius, with Kazakh businessmen.

The Kazakh prime minister drew the attention of the heads of Lithuanian firms to more prospective branches of his country's economy where joint actions might be very beneficial to both sides. Kazakhstan already has about 1,500 joint firms, but the activity has been developed only by 300-400 firms. Meanwhile the Kazakhstan Government could offer to Lithuania such attractive branches of the economy as gold extraction and trade in ferrous metals. Kazakhstan could, on the order of private firms, supply large quantities of natural gas and even negotiate with Russia on its transit.

Kazakhstan would be interested in joint actions in the sphere of electronics. Remnants of the military industry existing in both countries could be used for this purpose. The Kazakh prime minister has in his flat for the sixth year now the Lithuanian "Silelis" [Lithuanian TV set] and thinks a joint production of television sets would be very successful on the Asian market.

The Lithuanian businessmen's great hopes were raised by a promise by the Kazakh Government leader to examine as soon as possible claims by the Lithuanian firms concerning debts by the Kazakh state organizations.

On the proposal by Lithuanian businessmen it was decided to organize in Kazakhstan an exhibition of Lithuanian products in the near future. Our firms were invited to take part in commercial events taking place in that part of the world.

The meeting was attended by Lithuanian Prime Minister Adolfas Slezevicius and the Lithuanian official delegation.

Today Slezevicius is visiting Baykonur, and will return to Vilnius in the evening.

Supreme Council To Meet Hunger Strikers' Demands

LD1609164594 Almaty KAZTAG in Russian 1200 GMT 16 Sep 94

[Text] [No dateline as received] A resolution by the Supreme Council of the Republic of Kazakhstan on hunger strikers' claims:

Having examined demands by representatives of the Zheltoksan [December] movement, who are on a hunger strike, the Supreme Council notes that this has been caused by unsatisfactory fulfillment of the Supreme Council's resolution of 24 September 1990, Presidential Decree No. 540 of 12 December 1991, and the prime minister's instruction No. 591-P of 28 December 1993 on the rehabilitation of the participants in the 17-18 December 1986 events.

Demands of hunger strikers related to prompt restoral of their violated rights and creating efficient mechanism for a legal control over executive power are on the whole recognized as their right.

Hence, the republican Supreme Council decrees:

1. The Cabinet of Ministers should take urgent steps to implement the prime minister's instruction No. 591-P of 28 December 1993;

2. To take into consideration the prime minister's instruction No. 251-P of 18 June 1994 on targeting funds in 1994-95 for the construction of housing for the rehabilitated participants of the 1986 December events;

3. To set up a commission under the Supreme Council for parliamentary investigation of the 1986 December riots in Kazakhstan; and

4. The commission should submit, for consideration by the parliament, recommendations on amendments to the existing legislation which will exclude a repeat of such events.

[Signed] Abish Kekilbayev, chairman of the Supreme Council of Kazakhstan
[Dated] Almaty, 29 June [as received] 1994.

Nazarbayev Sacks Interior, Economics Ministers

LD1609200394 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1848 GMT 16 Sep 94

[Text] Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbayev issued a decree dismissing Economics Minister Mars Urkumbayev and Interior Minister Vladimir Shumov today.

Kazakh State Advisor Kairbek Suleymenov said Nazarbayev believes that the two ministers had "violated the moral-ethical principles" while in office.

A criminal case was instigated against Urkumbayev. He is charged with power abuse, machinations with currency and causing a significant damage to the state. The majority of parliamentarians voted for permitting to bring Urkumbayev, who enjoyed parliamentary immunity, to justice on September 14.

Suleymenov stressed that the main control/inspection department under the Kazakh president had revealed negative instances in the performance of Interior Minister Vladimir Shumov. His son, Andrey Shumov, working as an investigator in the Main Department on Struggle with Organized Crime, had received a large bribe when investigating a case.

Furthermore, Deputy Chief of the Main Department on Struggle with Organized Crime Leonid Druzhinin who revealed these instances was maltreated at the office by Shumov, Suleymenov said.

Nazarbayev Confirms Adherence to Economic Reforms

LD1609181894 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1547 GMT 16 Sep 94

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature: No. 180 (670); Compiled by Nikolai Zherebtsov and Andrei Petrovsky; edited by Vladimir Shishlin]

[Text] President Nursultan Nazarbayev has confirmed the republic's government adherence to the course of the economic reforms, through monetarist anti-crisis policies, when he spoke on Thursday night at the congress of industrialists and businessmen in Alma-Ata. He said that there is no alternative to the tough line in the financial and monetary-credit sphere.

Marking an insignificant price rise for foodstaffs and consumer goods in the current month (2.5

and 7

respectively), the head of state pointed to the considerable reduction of the inflation rate which over the 15 days of September reached 6.3

. He said that in August the inflation was 13.3

. (The highest inflation rate was registered in Kazakhstan in June—over 40

—"IF" [INTERFAX]).

The Kazakh leader believes that coordinated actions by the Central Asian states in the financial sphere, for example, in banking, will help strengthen these positive tendencies.

On Friday leaders of national banks of the Central Asian republics and Kazakhstan gathered for a second meeting near Lake Issyk-Kul (Kyrgyzstan) to discuss the beginning of activities of the Central-Asian Bank for the Cooperation and Development (CABCD), Interfax was told by Marat Sultanov, chairman of the board of the Kyrgyz National Bank.

He said that the leaders of the banks will consider the creation of the council of the Central-Asian Bank, the formation of the Bank's charter fund and the opening of the CABCD subsidiaries in Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan. Sultanov believes that the Bank's Council should involve one representative from each CABCD founding state.

It is also planned to discuss the problems associated with the convertibility of national currencies, the admission of non-resident banks to the internal currency market, as well as problems of regulation of the state shares market and the coordination of the credit and monetary policies of the Central Asian countries, said Sultanov.

Industrialists Urge State to Support Producers

LD1609152294 Almaty KAZTAG in Russian 1200 GMT 16 Sep 94

[Excerpts] [No dateline as received] Kazakhstan's Union of Entrepreneurs and Industrialists held a conference 15

September. [passage omitted] It discussed issues of invigorating the role of the country's industrialists in transforming the national economy and implementing the government's program aimed at lifting the economy out of crisis and deepening reforms.

Akezhan Kazhegeldin, chairman of the union and first deputy premier, addressed the participants. They believe that urgent measures should be taken aimed at supporting commodity producers.

A relevant accord was reached between the Cabinet of Ministers and the Union of Entrepreneurs and Industrialists. It also examined republican policy in the area of production and a draft tax law.

Kyrgyzstan

Parliamentary Elections Set for 24 Dec

LD1709213694 Moscow Radio Moscow in Russian to Tajikistan 1600 GMT 17 Sep 94

[From the "Slavyanka" program of the Russian Defense Ministry]

[Text] Elections to the new Kyrgyz parliament, which is to work on a permanent basis, are to be held on 24 December 1994. This was announced to reporters by a spokesman for the press service of the republic's president. He informed journalists of the causes and consequences of the parliamentary crisis in Kirghizia [Kyrgyzstan], which started in September this year following a refusal by a substantial number of deputies to carry out their duties. The intra-parliamentary crisis in Kirghizia is now over, the presidential spokesman said.

Akayev To Order Election, Referendum 'Next Week'

LD1709150394 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1242 GMT 17 Sep 94

[Text] Kyrgyzstan President Askar Akayev is due to issue decrees next week ordering a new parliamentary election and a referendum on some points in the former Soviet republic's constitution, informed sources in Bishkek said.

The referendum is to be scheduled for October 22 or 29, the sources told Interfax. The main amendments proposed to the constitution are for the present parliament to be replaced by a bicameral legislature to consist of a standing 35-seat legislative assembly and a 70-member house of representatives to proportionally represent all regions of the republic and sit jointly with the legislative assembly twice a year. The new parliament is to be elected on December 28.

The president also plans to set up a new electoral commission to run the referendum and parliamentary election, to replace one formed in the Soviet era and include representatives from Kyrgyzstan's regions.

The former parliament effectively dissolved itself early this month when most of its members refused to attend its sessions saying the legislature had lost the people's confidence and engaged in political intrigues instead of making laws.

Akayev Ambitions Seen as Threat to Democracy

MS1609123694 London FINANCIAL TIMES in English 16 Sep 94 p 4

[Report by John Lloyd incorporating interview with President Askar Akayev: "Kyrgyz Fear Their Tiny Nation Will Fall into Iron Hands"]

[Text] Bishkek—If the development of democracy in Kyrgyzstan has been threatened by the president's taking almost complete control over the country, the chances of its taking hold in the other former Soviet states of Central Asia are remote, and the "realists" who increasingly claim it is not on offer anywhere in the post-Soviet world will add another scalp to their belts.

Kyrgyzstan, whose population is small, natural resources minor and weight in the world negligible, had the highest of hopes, mainly because in President Askar Akayev it had a head of state who encouraged these ambitions.

In a series of speeches, he established the image of an administration which, in contrast to the other four states in the region, was determined to embed the rule of law, to ensure press freedom and establish a fully functioning civil society.

Largely for these reasons, the international financial institutions have committed more funds per head to Kyrgyzstan, in the form of support of the currency, assistance for restructuring the agrarian and industrial sectors and humanitarian aid, than to any other of the post-Soviet states.

Thus, the country largely owes its present living standard and future success in restructuring its economy, and its abiding commitment to democratic development to foreign support. But on Tuesday the Kyrgyz parliament heard speaker after speaker warn that democratic development was at least threatened, at worst crushed.

The cause was a series of moves either by Mr Akayev or attributed to him. First, the parliament was inquorate: only 125 deputies out of 323 were present. The rest, it was said, had been induced to stay away until a new parliament was created. Anticipating such a result, the president had asked the government to resign, arguing it had to do so because the constitution specified it could not outlast the parliament. He had called elections for a new parliament on December 24.

This would be preceded by a referendum on October 22 to pass a constitutional amendment specifying a bicameral parliament of less than 100 full-time MPs. The session was the last futile meeting of a doomed institution.

Further, the deputies argued that the president or his administration were afraid of allegations which would have been made of corruption, and, that since the legislature had been suppressed, the constitutional court not been appointed, and the executive under his control, President Akayev was on his way to being an autocrat.

Further, three of Bishkek's newspapers did not appear that day. SVOBODNYYE GORY (Free Hills) had been suppressed some weeks before by order of the procurator after an appeal to him by the president. The other two, POLITIKA and RES PUBLIKA, were more recent casualties.

Bishkek is in the midst of its latest wrenching change, having been carved out of tribal societies by Soviet power in the 1920s. Its industrial output has fallen since the Soviet Union collapsed, dragging gross domestic product down by 19 per cent in 1992 and 16 per cent in 1993, with a similar fall expected this year. "We supported democratic reform," said a caller to a television phone-in to President Akayev. "But give us the elementary conditions for living. Pay wages and pensions on time".

The small diplomatic community in Bishkek is concerned. For the envoys there, who have persuaded their governments that this was an oasis of open development, a wobble by Mr Akayev is a serious matter. They can find no good reason why he has forced a parliamentary crisis now, when parliament would have been dissolved next March. They fear a turn towards the authoritarian rule evident in neighbouring Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan.

In an interview, Mr Akayev repeated his continuing dedication to democratic development.

The economy was showing real signs of recovery, he said. Inflation was the lowest in the Commonwealth of Independent States, at 1.7 per cent a month; the som, introduced in May last year, is the most stable currency, at 10.7 to the dollar.

Farm reform had gone furthest, with most state and collective farms probably liquidated and private farms showing signs of higher output. Most small businesses were also private. Real incomes were rising and foreign investor confidence increasing.

Until the end of the year, President Akayev will indeed be the only figure of authority. His claim that democracy is not just being preserved but deepened cannot be judged until the referendum and the elections have happened, and properly.

On that depends his economy, his reputation, and the hope that Central Asia is not doomed to be ruled by iron hands.

Edict Issued on Alternative Military Service

LD1609174094 Bishkek Kyrgyz Radio First Program Network in Kyrgyz 2300 GMT 15 Sep 94

[Text] An edict by the president of Kyrgyzstan on transferring to the reserve those soldiers from Kyrgyzstan's Armed Forces [word indistinct] and border guards from Russia, who have completed their term of service and on a procedure concerning October-December 1994 conscription of citizens and alternative forms of service.

With regard to military conscription and alternative forms of service, I decree: First, those who have completed their term of active service in Kyrgyzstan's Armed Forces and other military units and Russian border guards stationed in Kyrgyzstan should be transferred to the reserve;

Second, those who have reached the age of 18 should without any delay be called up in October-December 1994 [words indistinct]. Conscripts could be called up for alternative forms of service at ministries, state committees, administrations, and departments.

Third, the Government of Kyrgyzstan should finalize a procedure for transferral to the reserve, [word indistinct] on alternative forms of service.

[Signed] President Akayev, Bishkek, 12 September 1994.

State Committee Approves Privatization Measure

LD1609132194 Bishkek Kyrgyz Radio First Program Network in Kyrgyz 2300 GMT 15 Sep 94

[Text] A meeting of the board of the State Committee for State Property Fund approved an instruction on the procedure for exchanging privatization certificates for privatization coupons for those who have resettled within the republic, for the staff of liquidated enterprises, for pensioners, and for invalids.

The instruction was drafted in accordance with a statute on Kyrgyzstan's special means of payment and a mechanism for their use. It was approved by the presidential edict "On Upgrading a Mechanism for Using Kyrgyzstan's Special Means of Payment" of 1 December 1993. It determines conditions and a procedure for exchanging privatization certificates [word indistinct] of 1994 issue for those who have resettlled within the republic, for employees of liquidated works, for invalids, pensioners, and the 1992-94 graduates of higher educational establishments.

The exchange of privatization certificates for privatization coupons for the above mentioned categories of people is to be done by local branches of the Kyrgyzel bank. Those who have resettled within the republic, the staff of liquidated works, invalids and pensioners should address their requests to provide them with coupons to the Kyrgyzel bank's branches.

Iranian Trade Fair To Open in Bishkek

LD1709112094 Bishkek Kyrgyz Radio First Program Network in Kyrgyz 2300 GMT 16 Sep 94

[Summary] An Iranian fair is due to open in Bishkek on 19 September. At the fair consumer goods will not only be displayed but will also be sold. This is the second fair of its kind in Kyrgyzstan this year.

Tajikistan

Border Guards Stop New Raid From Afghanistan

LD1909080894 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0739 GMT 19 Sep 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Galina Gridneva]

[Text] Dushanbe September 19 TASS—Russian border guards in Tajikistan opened artillery fire on a group of Tajik opposition militants who tried to break through from Afghanistan on Sunday at the section of the 12th border post.

The number of casualties among the militants is unknown, Russian border guards suffered no losses, Sergey Fatkulin, spokesman of the Russian border guard command in Tajikistan, told TASS on Monday.

He added that the territory around the 12th border post and the Saligorsk direction are being combed to neutralise armed Tajik mujaheddin who succeeded to penetrate from Afghanistan. Demining is also carried out on certain sections of the area controlled by the 12th post.

Border Guards Killed in 16 Sep Explosion

LD1909105894 Moscow INTERFAX in English 0934 GMT 19 Sep 94

[Text] According to the latest reports, eight border guards were killed in Friday's explosion of a guided missile near Turg Height in Tajikistan. Another two were injured.

As INTERFAX learned from the press bureau of Russian frontier troops, in the past week-end two Russian border guards died in hospital of wounds received on Friday. The remains of two more servicemen were discovered and identified in the area of the blast.

The group of Russian frontier guards was taking part in an operation designed to mop up units of Tajik opposition militants in the rear of the 12th station of the Moscow detachment of frontier guards. After a fight outside the ruins of Safetsang they discovered an ammunition depot.

A cave about 40 meters long harbored a large consignment of arms and ammunition. When the servicemen began their work at the depot, a guided missile went off. According to specialists, it was a 250- or 500-kilo bomb equipped with a remote control detonator.

The explosion killed Major Andrey Nartov, Captain Andrey Kovalevskiy, Senior Lieutenants Dmitriy Trotsenko and Maksim Nesterov, Lieutenant Andrey Korenevskiy and Private Aleksey Byakov. Privates Sergey Petrov and Saidsho Sangov died in hospital.

On Sunday a group of opposition militants tried to cross the Afghan border into Tajikistan in the area of the 12th station on two occasions. The frontier guards opened fire on the sites of attempted crossings.

Temporary Cease-fire Agreement Reported

LD1909093494 Dushanbe Radio Tajikistan Network in Tajik 0800 GMT 19 Sep 94

[Excerpt] An agreement on a temporary cease-fire and cessation of other hostilities in Tajikistan was signed yesterday in the Iranian capital. As a result of talks which lasted for several days and which were mediated by UN representatives, the government delegation and opposition representatives managed to overcome all difficulties and achieve positive results by way of mutual concessions.

It is thought that the cease-fire will come into force after the UN observers arrive in Tajikistan in the next 8-10 days. At the same time, the sides agreed to free 50 Tajik servicemen captured by the armed opposition groups, and 50 prisoner—opposition supporters. They will be released within a month after the cease-fire agreement comes into force.

The truce will last until 5 November, the eve of the presidential elections and of the referendum on the constitution which was set by the Parliament of Tajikistan.

Meanwhile, the third round of the official intra-Tajik talks devoted to a political settlement of the problems of Tajikistan will take place in Islamabad in mid-October.

Summing up the results of the Tehran talks at the request of an ITAR-TASS correspondent, Ramiro Piriz-Ballon, the UN secretary general's special envoy for Tajikistan, said that he is fully satisfied with the results of the Tehran talks. [passage omitted]

Further on Cease-fire Agreement

LD1709223394 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 2207 GMT 17 Sep 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Oleg Kuzmin]

[Text] Tehran, 18 Sep— Late on Saturday evening the warring sides in the Tajik conflict signed an agreement on a temporary cease-fire in Tehran. It is to come into force after the arrival of UN observers in Tajikistan and remain effective until 5 November.

The agreement and a joint communique were signed by Abdulmadjid Dostiyev, first deputy chairman of the Tajik Supreme Soviet; Akbar Turajonzoda, head of the opposition forces delegation, and Ramiro Piriz Ballon, the UN secretary general's special representative for the Tajik settlement. The ceremony was attended by Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati and Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Albert Chernyshev.

The problems of a political settlement of the Tajik conflict were not discussed in Tehran. They are to be on the agenda of the third round of inter-Tajik talks, which begins in Islamabad in mid-October.

Official Praises Tehran Accord

LD1809101494 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0947 GMT 18 Sep 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Aleksandr Dzyublo]

[Text] Moscow September 18 TASS—The agreement on temporary cease-fire signed on the night from Saturday to Sunday in Tehran by representatives of the Tajik Government and the opposition has been described as a major factor on the path towards political settlement of the internal conflict by an official of Tajikistan's embassy in Moscow.

The official, Rakhim Khasanov, said in an exclusive interview with ITAR-TASS today that "the sides were working towards this event for a long time, beginning with the first round of negotiations in April. No agreement was reached, however, either then or during the next round of talks in July".

The agreement signed in Tehran is due to come into force upon the arrival in Tajikistan of U.N. observers and remain in force until November 5.

The agreement and a joint communique were signed by First Deputy Chairman of Tajikistan's Parliament Abdulmadjid Dostiyev, the head of the delegation from the opposition forces Akbar Turajonzoda and a special envoy of the secretary-general of the United Nations for the Tajik settlement Ramiro Piriz-Ballon. The ceremony was attended by Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati and Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Albert Chernyshev.

According to Khakim Khasanov, if both sides abide by the present cease-fire agreement, this will make possible the beginning of the next round of talks aiming to solve questions relating to the political system, the questions which were due to be considered in the course of the first round of negotiations. In any case, the agreement and other documents signed in Tehran create a favorable atmosphere for the continuation of the dialogue, Khasanov said.

Oppositionist Hails Cease-fire

LD1809153094 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1045 GMT 18 Sep 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Oleg Kuzmin]

[Text] Tehran, 18 Sep—One of the leaders of the Tajik Islamic opposition, Akbar Turajonzoda, deputy head of the Islamic Rebirth Movement, has expressed satisfaction with the results of the Tehran talks on inter-Tajik settlement and with the agreement on a temporary cease-fire signed there. Speaking in an ITAR-TASS interview, he welcomed the fact that the two sides involved in the conflict had realized the need for compromise on the difficult road towards political settlement in Tajikistan. It was Turajonzoda who, on behalf of the Tajik opposition, put his signature under the agreement on a temporary cease-fire.

The Islamists' representative acknowledged that not long ago the opposition had been relying on military methods to solve the Tajik problem, because it had been unable to see any other prospects. Now, however, everyone understands that what is happening in Tajikistan is a tragedy both for the nation and for Islam. Only a cessation of bloodshed can ensure that the country retains its national sovereignty and territorial integrity. Turajonzoda thanked Iran and Russia for their mediation efforts.

He stressed that the documents signed in Tehran had brought political settlement closer. Such a settlement is necessary, since too much blood has been shed. According to the Islamic movement's representative, the negotiations were tough, and it took three days just to settle the issue of the release of prisoners of war and political detainees. He noted that both sides realized it was impossible to move forward without compromises. "In particular, we withdrew a demand for legalization of political parties, press freedom, and termination of criminal proceedings against opposition figures. Otherwise it would have been impossible to reach agreement. The government, in its turn, also made some concessions," Turajonzoda said.

He ruled out the possibility that the opposition would take part in the forthcoming elections and referendum, and reiterated earlier proposals to set up a neutral interim government, which would prepare the ground for truly free elections. "This is not a whim," the opposition leader noted; "We are convinced that at this stage elections would not be in the interests of the nation."

Delegation Head on Cease-fire

LD1709181294 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 17 Sep 94

[Text] Representatives of the Tajik Government and opposition groups have finally reached an agreement regarding the signing of a final cease-fire document.

Negotiations for ending the Tajikistan crisis have been under way in Tehran for the past 10 days with the participation of representatives from the Tajik Government and opposition groups and under the supervision of the UN special envoy, as well as the supervision of delegations from the Islamic Republic of Iran, Russia, and Pakistan.

Now, finally, the two sides have agreed on the establishment of a temporary cease-fire.

In an interview with our reporter, Mr. Va'ezi, the head of the Iranian delegation expressed satisfaction with the process of peace negotiations and said the agenda of the negotiations has reached a final stage and at 2230 tonight the final cease-fire document will be signed by both sides in Tehran.

At the end of the negotiations, Mr. Turjanzadeh, the head of the delegation representing the Tajikistan opposition groups, spoke to our reporter:

[Begin recording] [Unidentified correspondent] Apparently you have reached agreement with government representatives regarding the establishment of a cease-fire in Tajikistan. Could you explain the means of establishing the cease-fire and your conditions?

[Turjanzadeh] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Before anything else I would like to announce that the cease-fire is temporary. It is not permanent. After great efforts and two rounds of talks, one in Moscow and the other in Tehran, and the current negotiations—which could be said to be the third—and following utmost efforts by brothers of the Islamic Republic of Iran and efforts by the United Nations, represented in the person of the general secretary's special envoy, the deputy Russian foreign minister—in Tehran for 10 days—and the Pakistani Embassy, we have, thank God, been able to reach a solution although it is temporary. It is like the first step toward the establishment of permanent peace, a permanent cease-fire and a permanent national reconciliation. [end recording]

Speaking about the conditions for the establishment of a cease-fire, Turjanzadeh, the head of the negotiation team said that from the time of signing the agreement, the cease-fire will be observed for three months should the government-intended elections not be held.

Government Forces Seize Langar

LD1609145294 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1242 GMT 16 Sep 94

[Text] Tajik government forces took control of the town of Langar in the Tavil-Darinskiy district, some 300 kilometers away from Dushanbe, Thursday afternoon. A high-ranking executive of the Tajik Security Ministry told INTERFAX that government forces had sent aircraft to bomb enemy positions.

According to the same source, opposition forces offered stubborn resistance but had to retreat in the direction of the Gorno-Badakhshanskiy autonomous region. Government troops were trying to deny the enemy access to the border with Afghanistan.

Earlier, government troops captured the towns of Tavil-Dara and Sagirdash. They control the Khaburoabadskiy pass which links Dushanbe to the Gorno-Badakhshanskiy autonomous region.

Dushanbe and the opposition both have some 1,500 men involved in the action.

The source reported an opposition buildup near Sagirdash and Langar and the Tajik Defense Ministry sees the possibility of a counter-offensive. Opposition ranks are steadily growing.

Authorities Claim Control Over Tavil-Dara

LD1809091394 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0809 GMT 16 Sep 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Galina Gridneva]

[Text] Dushanbe September 18 TASS—Tajik authorities said they had surrounded the opposition forces in the city of Tavildara and had restored control over the region, but admitted that it is too early to speak about a complete rout of the militants.

First Deputy Interior Minister Gennadiy Blinov told TASS on Sunday that at 14 hours local time on Saturday the units of the interior and defense ministries broke through to the settlement of Childara, several kilometers from the administrative center of Tavildara, and surrounded the opposition forces there.

The operation against the opposition scattered in the mountains continues, he added.

40 mujahedin were killed in clashes over the last two days and big numbers of weapons were seized, according to Blinov.

Interior forces lost one man and three were wounded, he added.

The opposition renders practically no resistance and tries to penetrate in small groups of 3-5 people into the Badakhshan region bordering on central Tajikistan. From there they head to Afghanistan where strongholds of the opposition are situated close to the Tajik border, Blinov said.

The Russian border guards have reinforced the protection of the frontier and have blocked the paths which the militants are expected to use, the deputy minister said.

He admitted that it is too early to speak about a complete rout of anti-government forces in Tavildara, but said that the situation in the region is controlled by joint forces of the interior, defence and security ministries.

Local Clashes Continue in Tavil-Dara Area

LD1809144994 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1302 GMT 18 Sep 94

[Text] The situation in the Tavil-Dara zone (approximately 300 km to the east of Dushanbe), where the government forces are neutralizing opposition units, did not change dramatically. Interfax learnt from a spokesman for the Tajik Interior Ministry that local clashes took place there on Saturday and Sunday.

The spokesman said that over the past week one person was killed and 10 wounded in police units headed by Interior Minister, General Yakub Salimov. The spokesman said that the opposition lost 140 people killed and wounded.

It was impossible to obtain information from the Tajik Defense Ministry. However, Deputy Defense Minister, Colonel Semen Zingerman told Interfax that the government "has enough forces and successfully finish the operation shortly".

Rakhmonov Urges Restoration of Ostankino Broadcasts

LD1909095594 Dushanbe Radio Tajikistan Network in Tajik 1700 GMT 17 Sep 94

[Excerpts] As you know, since 1 September of the current year the Ostankino State Television Company has reduced the volume of its programs broadcast in the Republic of Tajikistan. The reason is that this television company has cut its lease on local communications.

At present, 97 percent of the multinational population of Tajikistan watch and listen to Ostankino programs. [passage omitted]

Emomali Rakhmonov, the head of state and chairman of the Supreme Soviet of the Republic of Tajikistan, has sent a letter in this connection to Russian President Boris Yeltsin pointing out that to solve the problems related to restoring Ostankino Television and Radio Company's broadcasts to their previous level would benefit the peoples of both countries. [passage omitted]

Former Premier on Need for Contested Elections

LD1609131394 Moscow INTERFAX in English 0930 GMT 16 Sep 94

[Text] Elections in Tajikistan must be held on a contested basis, presidential candidate, former prime minister, current Ambassador to Russia Abdumalik Abdullojanov said.

He said that if several candidates take part in the elections, the people would be able to elect the best leadership and a legitimate president would find it far easier to run the country.

Abdullojanov said it was most important for him to restore peace, calm and economic and political stability to the country.

"My team includes economists, financiers, lawyers, writers, those familiar with the practical and theoretical side of management. It includes representatives from all Tajikistan's regions: Russians, Uzbeks and Koreans. "We are seeking to revive the unity of the nation and to put an end to regional confrontation. If I am elected president, I shall offer the prime minister's post to the current Tajik leader Emomali Rakhmonov," Abdullojanov said.

Abdullojanov called for "more flexibility" between Dushanbe and the opposition in settling the current conflict.

International Observers Invited to Elections

LD1809100094 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0800 GMT 18 Sep 94

[Text] Tajikistan has asked the international community to send observers to its presidential elections and referendum on the new constitution, scheduled for 6 November.

A similar request has been sent to the heads of state of Russia, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, and other CIS states, according to the head of the republican Foreign Ministry's information department, Zafar Saidov.

The request also asks the leaders of these countries to assist in holding the referendum and elections for Tajik citizens resident in their countries.

Foreign Ministry Cited on Observers

LD1709142894 Dushanbe Radio Tajikistan Network in Tajik 1100 GMT 17 Sep 94

[Text] According to a report from the information department of the Foreign Affairs Ministry, the ministry has taken a number of specific measures in order to carry out successfully the political measures on the eve of the nationwide referendum on the Constitution and presidential.

In particular, [words indistinct] of the Central Electoral Commission have been sent to the leaders of Russia, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, Belarus, Turkmenistan, and Ukraine. It is requested that the leaders of the abovementioned countries promote participation of our compatriots who are living in the territory of those countries in the referendum and presidential elections. With this aim, it is envisaged to establish constituencies and to send the Central Electoral Commission members to the capitals of the abovementioned countries.

The Foreign Affairs Ministry has sent notes to the headquarters of the United Nations, CSCE, European Union, and the Islamic Conference Organization as well. The Central Electoral Commission has requested these organizations to send international observers to Tajikistan in connection with the nationwide referendum and forthcoming presidential elections. These kinds of notes have been sent to the Interparliamentary Assembly and the CIS Executive Secretary as well.

Uzbekistan

Two Parties To Take Part in Parliamentary Elections

LD1809155594 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1302 GMT 18 Sep 94

[Text] Only two officially registered parties will be able to take part in the elections to new parliament in Uzbekistan. The decision on elections is to be taken by the 16th session of the republic's parliament which is to open on September 22.

The party "Vatan Tarakkieti" (Motherland's Progress) which was created last year on the initiative of Uzbek's president's state aide, Usman Azimov, unites Uzbek intellectuals and has about 40,000 people. The party proclaimed as its aims the construction in Uzbekistan of a democratic secular society, the development of market relations in the economy and better living standards. At the plenary meeting in Tashkent on Saturday the party has reaffirmed its support of the policies pursued by the republic's leadership.

Islam Karimov, the republic's president, is the chairman of the other officially registered People's Democratic Party, which was organized in 1991 on the basis of the Communist party of Uzbekistan. The party unites about 400,000 people, including 220,000 former Communists.

Opposition political organizations of Uzbekistan, such as the Democratic party "Erk", the Communist Workers' party, the people's movement "Birlik", the Society for Human Rights, which accuse the present authorities of totalitarianism, practically curbed their activities and their leaders left the republic.

In line with laws, the elections are to take place on a multi-party basis.

Import Requirements Reportedly Increasing

LD1909094794 Tashkent Radio Mashal in Uzbek 0800 GMT 19 Sep 94

[Summary from poor reception] Uzbekistan needs to import more products from abroad. During the past two to three years, the value of goods imported to Uzbekistan has been increasing, compared with exports, to around $250 to $270 million per year. Sugar, meat, cereals, and other such products, which are produced on a small scale in the republic, are imported. Uzbekistan has to pay countries abroad over $500 million for these products. Last year, of the $900 million spent abroad, $263 million was spent on purchasing means of production.

Armenia

Deputy Foreign Minister Submits Resignation

LD1609171394 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1334 GMT 16 Sep 94

[Text] The presidium of the Armenian government has dismissed first deputy Foreign Minister Zhirair Liparitian.

The government's press-center said that Liparitian tendered his resignation, but remained a political adviser to the Armenian President.

Liparitian, age 49, an American citizen, was Armenia's First Deputy Foreign Minister from November 1992.

The Foreign Ministry and other official agencies have refrained from comment. Liparitian has long been in charge of the Karabakh problem, and observers in Yerevan linked his resignation with changes in the political situation in the region, including the prolonged armistice in the zone of the Armenian-Azerbaijani conflict. The resignation of the pro-Western Foreign Ministry official may be evidence that Armenia may opt for the Russian settlement plan of the Karabakh conflict.

Calm Reported at Nagorno-Karabakh Border 17 Sep

NC1709123594 Yerevan ARAGIL ELECTRONIC NEWS BULLETIN in English 0724 GMT 17 Sep 94

[Text] Stepanakert ("Lragir" daily), 09/17/94—Despite relative calmness at the RMK [Republic of Mountainous Karabakh] borders, the situation, particularly at the Eastern fronts, remains unforeseeable.

Taking no active military operations, the Azerbaijanis attempt to force the Karabakh side violate the cease-fire, by shelling the Armenian frontier posts at various sections of the front.

The enemy shortly shelled, using machine guns and other weaponry, the Karabakh positions at the villages of Levonarkh in the Mardakertskiy District and Souma in the Agdamskiy District in the morning of September 16. No casualties are reported. Karabakh side refrained from returning the fire.

Karabakh Acting Chairman Baburyan Interviewed

NC1909110994 Yerevan ARAGIL ELECTRONIC NEWS BULLETIN in English 1510 GMT 15 Sep 94

[Interview with Karen Baburyan, the acting chairman of the Republic of Mountainous Karabakh [RMK] Supreme Council, by an unidentified correspondent; place, date not given]

- [Text] Yerevan ("RESPUBLICA ARMENIA" daily), 09/15/94—[dateline as received]

[Correspondent] Republic of Mountainous Karabakh declared its independence three years ago, on September 2, 1991. On your opinion, what was the cause of rejecting the idea of reunification with Armenia, which was once central in the Artsakh movement, and why was chosen the way of creating an independent country?

[Baburyan] The problem of reunification with Armenia was posed via the parliament, within the framework of well recognized international standards. But, by that time, the concept of inviolability of borders was prevalent in the former USSR and in the whole world, therefore our demand of unification has been and still is presented by Azerbaijan as aggression of Armenia against the neighboring country and capturing of Azeri territories by force. After the decay of the Soviet Union Azerbaijan used a law, which was active by that time, to withdraw from the USSR. In turn, within the framework of the same law, we called a referendum, which was held with participation of many experts and international observers, who confirmed that it was carried in accord with well accepted democratic principles. Thus, we have legally withdrawn from Azerbaijan, without any violations of international norms from the legal point of view.

[Correspondent] Many parties accept today, that RMK exists de-facto. Does the Supreme Council of the republic take diplomatic or other measures for legal recognition of your country?

[Baburyan] Indeed, those who of think that the RMK exists de-facto, are very logical. Today we possess all attributes of statehood. Our main achievement was creation of the RMK defense army, the main security guarantor of the republic. Nevertheless, RMK is for political resolution of the problem, and is consistently supporting regulation of the Karabakh-Azeri conflict in a peaceful manner. We have a distinct foreign strategy, which the Supreme Council Board, Ministers Council and the RMK Foreign Ministry follow strictly.

As you probably remember, Bishkek protocol has been signed recently, and many documents have been accepted as a result of negotiations between the sides of the conflict. CIS Interparliamentary Assembly is often inviting leaders of our parliament. We participated recently in operation of the European Council. All these are evidence for diplomatic measures for legal recognition of the RMK. At least, many people understand today, that it is impossible to be successful in peaceful resolution without recognizing Karabakh as a side of the conflict.

[Correspondent] RMK exists for already three years, but it has no constitution yet, the law on citizenship has not been accepted so far. Can we speak about creation of statehood, when the republic has no constitution and sessions of the Supreme Council have not been called for long time?

[Baburyan] This is a very difficult problem. You are probably well aware about the debates on the project of the constitution, which are now being carried in Armenia, and which also has not accepted the law on citizenship yet. Great difficulties were apparent when these problems were being discussed in Russian parliament too. This is one of the most topical problems, which need time and detailed investigation, before these laws can be accepted. Yes, the republic has no constitution today, but we have a constitutional law, which stipulates all topics, necessary for normal operation of the State. The Supreme Council has created a Constitutional Commission, which develops the project of the Constitution and uses the experience of Armenia and Russia.

Sessions of the parliament are not being called by known reasons. I think, I don't have to explain that now, when the war is not completely finished yet, many parliamentarians are simply unable to leave their positions at the front to participate in the Supreme Council Sessions.

[Correspondent] Role of the Supreme Council as an organ, creating the laws, is especially important in a young country. What laws have already been developed or are being developed by the RMK Supreme Council?

[Baburyan] In addition to the constitutional law which I mentioned, RMK has laws about the Supreme Council, Ministers Council, a package of laws concerning the army etc. The Supreme Council Board accepted about 130 laws, which will become valid after the approval at a session. During the last fruitful session deputies approved three laws.

[Correspondent] Contacts with the parliaments of other countries could be important for the RMK. What does the Supreme Council do in order to create and develop bilateral interparliamentary relations with other countries?

[Baburyan] We are trying to have contacts with parliaments of other countries. If we started to work with such recognized organizations, like Interparliamentary Assembly or the European Council quite recently, we have had close relations with many countries for quite longer time. These contacts are becoming even more active, and we do our best for them to become permanent. We are trying to establish relations with leaders of Azerbaijan too, which I believe, is very important for establishing peace in the region and increasing trust between the nations.

Defense Ministry: Azerbaijan Fired on Border Areas

NC1609183394 Yerevan Radio Yerevan in Azeri 1330 GMT 16 Sep 94

[Text] The Armenian Ministry of Defense Information Service has disclosed that Azerbaijan's military subunits fired on border areas in Noyemberyanskiy Rayon with various types of arms from 2055 to 2315 [1655 to 1915 GMT] yesterday. No one was hurt. Armenian border guards refrained from launching retaliatory operations. The same source said that the situation in the other parts of the border between Armenia and Azerbaijan was relatively peaceful.

The Nagorno-Karabakh Republic Defense Army Headquarters has disclosed that the sides continue to comply with the cease-fire agreement.

'First Independent Radio Station' To Begin 19 Sep

NC1709180094 Yerevan SNARK in English 1046 GMT 17 Sep 94

[Text] Yerevan, 17 September (SNARK)—The first independent radio station will appear in Armenia on September 19.

Initially the station—founded by private persons—will broadcast 4 hours a day in Armenian, and therefore also in English. In USW band mostly musical and informational programs will be sounding in stereo mode.

Armenian diaspora in USA rendered material and financial support for this first independent radio station in their motherland.

Azerbaijan

Aliyev on Ceasefire Agreement With Armenia

LD1809154894 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1509 GMT 18 Sep 94

[Text] The Azerbaijani and Armenian presidents who met in Moscow recently have confirmed that they will abide by the ceasefire agreement, Azerbaijani President Geydar Aliyev said at a meeting in Baku.

Aliyev added that the Armenian authorities had agreed to observe the international law in the work for a political solution to the conflict between the two countries. This, he explained, may imply Azerbaijan's territorial integrity and inviolability of borders.

Aliyev also said that the two presidents had agreed that the peacekeeping force to be deployed in the conflict zone would be international.

Speaking of the $4.7 billion contract that Azerbaijan is expected to sign with a consortium of western oil companies, Aliyev said that the goal was to modernize the country's oil industry, increase the output, step up the refinement of oil and to extend the range of petrochemical products. The ultimate goal was to improve the living standards of Azerbaijanis.

Gasanov Insists on Complete Armenian Withdrawal

LD1709104494 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 2054 GMT 16 Sep 94

[ITAR-TASS correspondents Sevindzh Abdullayeva and Viktor Shulman]

[Text] Baku, 17 Sep—Without a complete withdrawal of Armenian armed formations from all occupied Azerbaijani territories, including Lachinskiy and Shushinskiy rayons, situated in the zone of the so-called humanitarian corridor linking Nagorno-Karabakh with Armenia, there can be no total settlement of the Armenian-Azerbaijani conflict. This is the opinion of Azerbaijan's Foreign Minister Gasan Gasanov, stated in an ITAR-TASS interview in connection with the talks that have resumed in Moscow between experts of the two Transcaucasian countries.

The head of the foreign policy department said that the freeing of Shusha and Lachin is the key question, the most fundamental question in the settlement process. When this is resolved the examination of other issues generated by the conflict will proceed more quickly. At the same time he does not rule out the possibility that a humanitarian corridor could function, but under the strict condition that it is not used by the Armenian side for military purposes. Gasan Gasanov also said that during the Moscow meeting it was also planned to discuss questions of providing security guarantees for the Armenians of Nagorno-Karabakh and bringing international forces into the region.

Asked whether the present meeting between the sides would be the last one, the head of Azerbaijan's Foreign Ministry noted: "If we have decided to settle the conflict by political means then we must have an understanding attitude toward an unlimited number of rounds of talks, including discussions at summit level."

Information Minister on Nagorno-Karabakh, Aid

JN1809102694 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 18 Sep 94 p 23

[Interview with Sabir Rustemhanli, Azerbaijani minister of information and press, by Ahmad 'Abd-al-Majid, in Baghdad—date not given]

[Text] ['Abd-al-Majid] What are the latest developments in the conflict between Azerbaijan and Armenia?

[Rustemhanli] It is known that Armenia occupies more than 20 percent of our country's territories, and that its forces have expelled approximately 200,000 Azerbaijani citizens from their homes in Armenia. As a result of the occupation, there are more than a million Azerbaijani refugees. It is also known that Armenia does not recognize any international document. It is practicing occupation and destroying antiquities and cultural sites. Over the past six months, the Azerbaijani Government has said Armenia has occupied territories, destroyed residential areas, and killed innocent people. Regrettably, the world cannot hear. It seems the West wants to plant a second Israel in another Islamic land, namely, Azerbaijan, and wants it to carry out the same acts against Muslims in our country.

Regarding the Nagorno-Karabakh issue, all Christian states, with their various political and social systems, stand against Azerbaijan and support Armenia, although the United Nations respects our country's sovereignty and urges states not to encroach on our international border. The United Nations has adopted four resolutions on the issue calling for the withdrawal of all occupying Armenian forces from our territories. However, Armenia ignores these resolutions. It is supported by the Russian Government and some Western states that supply Armenia with arms and volunteers. We have authenticated reports about the involvement of some Arab and Western states in the conflict. They have established training camps for volunteers to enable them to fight along the Armenian forces. It is very regrettable that these volunteers are trained in Islamic countries.

['Abd-al-Majid] Can you name the states involved in the Armenian-Azerbaijani conflict?

[Rustemhanli] Syria, Lebanon, France, and Greece. The Islamic states do not extend true assistance to us. They only give us lip service. We know the Western states are not pleased about the independence of Azerbaijan. Armenia is a sword hanging over our heads. Therefore, we have no choice but to seek peace. We resort to peace to defend our country's independence and to safeguard its sovereignty.

['Abd-al-Majid] What kind of aid you want from the Islamic states?

[Rustemhanli] All kinds of aid.

['Abd-al-Majid] Even arms and volunteers?

[Rustemhanli] Yes, arms and military assistance. Azerbaijan is an independent state, but it is threatened from outside. It does not receive real aid from the neighboring states, such as Turkey and Iran. In light of this, we have the right to ask for aid from any state in the world. I do not want to ignore the humanitarian aid from our neighbors Turkey and Iran. They have aided us by sheltering refugees, establishing temporary camps for them, and providing them with basic life needs, such as food. However, their diplomatic efforts and influence on other countries to encourage them to assist us are insufficient.

The sad thing is that Armenia opened a consulate in the city of Tabriz in Iran while the war was still on. We cannot take a similar step inside Iran, where there is much talk about "the Muslim nation" and where there are many papers and magazines, published in the Armenian language, that attack us. We do not use the weapon of terrorism, as Armenia does. Armenia has terrorist organizations in most of the Muslim countries, and it has a wide network abroad. Azerbaijan, however, has only one weapon, that is, right and justice.

['Abd-al-majid] But have you asked for any real assistance from the Islamic states?

[Rustemhanli] Recently, the Islamic Conference Organization states adopted our rights. They have started to devote statements to this effect. But statements alone are of limited effect and influence. Regrettably, Muslim states lack political mobilization programs to defend Muslims' rights. We do not want to say that the war is between Muslims and Christians. Nevertheless, we want to refer to the evident fact that Muslims all over the world are facing occupation more than any other party. This occupation is generally done by Western states. We mean that the sources of Oriental culture are targeted and fought. The Muslim world has become an arena to test international politics.

['Abd-al-Majid] What has Azerbaijan contributed to the Palestinian self-rule Authority to help it carry out its role and duties?

[Rustemhanli] The important thing is that this assistance should be preceded by the existence of relations. I believe that there are no relations between us and the Palestinian Authority and there are no political or diplomatic relations.

['Abd-al-Majid] What about Israel?

[Rustemhanli] Israel is one of the states that recognized Azerbaijan. It has an embassy in Baku. We have cultural and tourism relations with it. Jewish immigrants from Azerbaijan have an important role in boosting these relations.

['Abd-al-Majid] But how do you say that you are a Muslim country when you do not have relations with the Palestinians?

[Rustemhanli] It is possible for us to have a relationship with the Palestinians, but we are waiting for them to take the first step. We hope they will do that.

Martial Law Reportedly Stabilizes Situation

NC1609180894 Yerevan SNARK in English 1014 GMT 16 Sep 94

[Text] Moscow, September 16 (SNARK)— Following a responsible officer of Azerbaijani Embassy in Moscow Manaf Agayev, situation in Azerbaijan began to stabilized after introduction a state of martial law. Since yesterday no case of mass disorder has been observed.

It is the second day already that Azerbaijani diplomat refuses to release the measures stipulated by the martial law.

When a SNARK reporter asked him, whether official authorities pressed on the oppositional parties, which as known, on September 10 organized a meeting in the capital of the republic against the government, he denied it. According to him the leadership of the country hasn't demonstrate any kind of pressure on the opposition. "All we need is to recover the situation," said he.

Contract To Be Signed With Western Oil Companies

LD1609202594 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1848 GMT 16 Sep 94

[Text] The Azerbaijani state oil company and a consortium of Western oil companies will sign a contract for exploiting three oil sites in Baku on September 20. Azerbaijani President Geydar Aliyev told a news conference in Baku Friday that he had signed a corresponding decree earlier this afternoon.

Aliyev said the contract envisioned exploiting the oil sites Chyrag, Azeri and Gyuneshli on the Caspian coast.

The Western consortium encompassing US Amoco, Unocal, McDermott, Pennzoil, Ramco, British-Norwegian alliance British Petroleum/Statoil and Turkish Petroleum Corporation will provide 80 percent of the capital, or $7.4 billion, Aliyev said.

The contract will expire in 30 years. A total of 511 million tons of oil are projected to be produced over this period. Azerbaijan's share in the total output will be 253 million tons of oil. Aliyev said the republic's profits by the end of the period will total $34 billion. Over the same period, a total of 55 billion cubic meters of casing-head gas will also go to Azerbaijan. At the same time, the republic will not lose the right to exploit gas sites on the contracted area.

Aliyev said that "unfortunately, not all of our ideas and wishes" were reflected in the contract. At the same time, he pointed to the paramount importance of the project for improving the general economic situation in Azerbaijan.

The contract will be enacted once ratified by the republic's parliament.

UK-Led Consortium Agrees on Oil Extraction Deal

MS1909103294 London FINANCIAL TIMES in English 19 Sep 94 p 2

[Report by Steve LeVine: "Oil Companies to Sign Azerbaijan Extraction Deal"]

[Text] Partners in a British Petroleum-led consortium of Western oil companies expect to sign a $7bn (4.5bn pounds) extraction deal with the former Soviet republic of Azerbaijan tomorrow.

The contract will represent a breakthrough after four years of hard negotiations. It is the first big western oil deal signed in the energy-rich region since Russia asserted its right to a primary role on the Caspian Sea about a year ago. Delegations from most of the eight western oil companies involved flew to the Azeri capital of Baku last night.

The two offshore fields, known as Azeri and Chirag, contain an estimated 4bn barrels of oil; the extraction deal is estimated to be worth an eventual $118bn. Azerbaijan is to receive 80 per cent of the proceeds, and the consortium the remainder, sources said. The contract comes after setbacks in the consortium's attempt to extract oil from Azerbaijan, including a seemingly solid agreement which fell through in June last year when Azerbaijan's government was ousted in a coup.

The deal includes a strong Russian involvement in Azerbaijan; the Caspian republic grudgingly returned to Moscow's fold during the coup's aftermath. The Russian firm Lukoil will have a 10 per cent stake in the foreign consortium and has also been granted a primary role in developing a third, adjacent oilfield called Guneshli.

"Everybody is very pleased with the contract," said Mr Steve Remp, chairman of Ramco Energy, one of the western partners. Two other major contracts have been signed on the inland sea, both in Kazakhstan, one being Chevron's agreement to exploit the Tengiz oilfield, the ex-Soviet Union's biggest single western oil deal.

However, no drilling or new oil flow has begun, largely because of obstacles thrown up by Moscow, which argues that it deserves a big part in the deals because Russian engineers found and developed the fields during the Soviet period. Western analysts, meanwhile, have asserted that Russian government and military officials are also intent on retaining a strong political influence in the region by restructuring its energy development and resulting economic independence.

The current contract is the product of six weeks of final negotiation in Houston which finished last Thursday. The consortium partners were notified almost immediately that Mr. Geydar Aliyev, the Azerbaijan president, had approved it subject to parliamentary ratification. Other members of the consortium include Statoil, Pennzoil, McDermott and Turkish Petroleum.

The two sides did not resolve a dispute over how the oil will be transported out of the region, and negotiation on a pipeline were to begin almost immediately after the signing. Moscow has insisted that the consortium use the existing pipeline route through Russia's Black Sea port of Novorossiysk. But some western analysts have seen this as a Russian attempt to maintain its economic control over ex- Soviet energy and that a proposed alternate route ending at the Turkish port of Ceyhan would be more economical, as well as wiser politically for Azerbaijan.

Law on Mortgages Adopted

MM1609135394 Moscow NOVAYA YEZHEDNEVNAYA GAZETA in Russian 16 Sep 94 p 2

[Unattributed report under the "Azerbaijan" rubric: "Property Can Be Mortgaged Legally"]

[Text] A routine session of the Azerbaijani National Assembly has adopted a Law on Mortgages. This law was necessitated by the shortage of working capital and also by the tightening up of the system for providing the republic's enterprises with credit. The law enables enterprises to mortgage their property and thus receive additional working capital. Shareholders in enterprises under collective ownership will be able to mortgage their share of this property.

Georgia

Shevardnadze, Grachev, Ardzinba Hold Talks on Abhazia

Shevardnadze Hails Talks

LD1809142694 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1302 GMT 18 Sep 94

[Text] The meeting in Novyy Afon [Akhali Atoni] between Eduard Shevardnadze and Vladislav Ardzinba with the participation of Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev has launched the process of the refugees' return to Abkhazia and the withdrawal of the Georgian armed units from the Kodor canyon.

Such conclusion was made by Eduard Shevardnadze in his Saturday commentary over the Georgian television. The main result of the meeting, he said, is the "restoration of basic human relations".

Shevardnadze marked the important role played by Boris Yeltsin and Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev in organizing the dialogue. There would have been no meeting without their mediation, said the Georgian leader.

Shevardnadze said that no documents were signed in Novyy Afon but the two sides managed to link the schedule for the refugees' return to Abkhazia with the determining of the republic's political status.

The Georgian leader said that the talks in Abkhazia will be continued by Georgian Defense Minister Varden Nadebaidze for another two days. Also discussed will be the schedule for the refugees' return and the withdrawal of the Georgian troops from the Kodor canyon.

Shevardnadze on Refugees, Price Reform

LD1909100594 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0915 GMT 19 Sep 94

[Text] Tbilisi, 19 Sep (GIA-TASS)—Georgian head of state Eduard Shevardnadze described the recent trilateral meeting in Novyy Afon as a definitely positive move toward a peace settlement in the Georgia-Abkhazia conflict in an interview today on Georgian radio.

He said the orderly return by a large group of refugees to Gali district failed to take place a few days ago due to poor organization. "Of course", he continued, "it is very difficult to assemble such a large and disorganized mass of people at an exact given time - that requires military precision." "One thing is indisputable," he stressed: "the refugees will return, but this will take place in a more orderly fashion and, most importantly, their safety will be guaranteed."

On price deregulation, the head of state was sharply critical of the Georgian Cabinet of Ministers for not always being, he said, sufficiently demanding of ministry and government department heads who fail to provide the public with welfare payments promised by the government. The ministers of labor and social welfare have been dismissed for this, E. Shevardnadze remarked.

In his opinion, Georgia has now embarked on the most difficult phase of its reforms. Following the recent sharp rise in the price of bread, transport, and electricity the first priority, E. Shevardnadze said, is to provide funds for children, students and the needy. The head of state called on the people of the republic "to show a high degree of organization and responsibility," saying that all political forces, party leaders and political movements must consolidate if the reforms are to be successful.

Ardzinba on Recent Events

NC1609180494 Yerevan SNARK in English 1416 GMT 16 Sep 94

[Text] Sukhumi, September 16 (SNARK)—Appearing on Abkhazian television, a chairman of Abkhazian Supreme Soviet Vladislav Ardzinba has characterized events, recently participated [as received] in Abkhazia, as rough provocation, which could brought to a bloodshed.

As he thinks, actions of some representatives of Russian Defense Ministry may cause a breakdown of political settlement's process.

According to Ardzinba, as a result of secret negotiations behind Abkhazia a decision of mass return of refugees has been adopted. There were fighters and members of so called "government of Autonomous Republic of Abkhazia" among the refugees.

Grachev Comments on Talks

LD1609171294 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1615 GMT 16 Sep 94

[By ITAR-TASS special correspondent Vladimir Gondusov]

[Text] Novyy Afon (Abkhazia), 16 Sep—The trilateral meeting behind closed doors today in Novyy Afon (Republic of Abkhazia) between Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev, Georgian Head of State Eduard Shevardnadze, and Vladislav Ardzinba, chairman of the Supreme Soviet of Abkhazia, went on for four hours.

Russian Minister Pavel Grachev told journalists after the meeting that "a firm step was made toward a peaceful settlement of the problem between Georgia and Abkhazia." He called the discussion that took place between the leaders of Abkhazia and Georgia—who had not met for some time—historic.

The minister said many subjects were discussed at the meeting, including political issues—Abkhazia's status, the problem of the Kodori Gorge, and economic issues. But the priority subject was, of course, the problem of the return of refugees to Galiskiy Rayon.

Pavel Grachev stressed that though he felt the talks were constructive, there were some differences between the leaders of the two republics and the Russian side.

Therefore, it was decided that the dialogue between the representatives of Georgia and Abkhazia mediated by Russia should be continued on 17 September. Tomorrow it will be possible to set definite dates for the return of the refugees, Pavel Grachev believes.

Eduard Shevardnadze said that "if there was a chance of making progress in settling the conflict, it should be used." The Georgian leader also said that "the fact the meeting took place was a good sign."

Vladislav Ardzinba said that the Abkhaz side was not hindering the return of the refugees, but he repeated his view that a clear mechanism for this process needed to be worked out.

Notes 'Differences' at Talks

LD1709082394 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0644 GMT 17 Sep 94

[Text] Moscow September 17 TASS—Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev, Georgian leader Eduard Shevardnadze and chairman of the Abkhazian Supreme Soviet Vladislav Ardzinba will continue today the dialogue, started by them in Novy Afon, Abkhazia, on Friday. According to Grachev, who is acting as a mediator at the meeting, the time limits for the return of refugees will probably be set today. "A major step has been taken towards a peaceful settlement of the Georgian-Abkhazian problem. A history-making dialogue took place between the Georgian and Abkhazian leaders who had not meet for a long time," Grachev told journalists.

The problem of the return of refugees to the Gali district was the main topic for discussion at the meeting of Georgian, Abkhazian and Russian representatives in Novyy Afon. Addressing journalists, Grachev stressed that although he regarded the talks as constructive, there were some differences between the stands of the leaders of the two republics, on the one hand, and the Russian side, on the other.

Ardzinba told journalists that the Abkhazian side was not putting up obstacles on the way to the return of refugees, but again stressed that it was necessary to work out a clear and effective mechanism of that process.

According to the Ministry of Information and Press of Abkhazia, the tension of the past two days reduced considerably after Russian Deputy Minister of Defence Georgiy Kondratyev assured Ardzinba that there would be no massive return of refugees prior to the settlement of the problem by political means.

Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev , who is now in Murmansk on a short working visit, expressed confidence that Pavel Grachev's trip to Abkhazia would promote the early settlement of the problem of the return of refugees there. Kozyrev stressed in an ITAR-TASS interview that some headway had been made in the settlement of that problem.

May Ask Yeltsin To Meet Shevardnadze, Ardzinba

LD1609171194 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1503 GMT 16 Sep 94

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature No 180 (670) for 16 September 1994; compiled by Nikolay Zherebtsov, Andrey Petrovskiy and edited by Vladimir Shishlin]

[Text] The Georgian leader Eduard Shevardnadze is reported to have discussed the return of refugees to the Gali district of Abkhazia on the phone with the Russian President Boris Yeltsin. The Georgian leader's press service avoided disclosing any details, except for the fact that various aspects of the conflict in Abkhazia and bilateral relations were discussed.

Defense Minister Pavel Grachev flew to Abkhazia on Friday morning on President Yeltsin's orders. He will meet with Shevardnadze and the Abkhazian leader Vladislav Ardzinba to discuss the return of refugees.

Grachev said before leaving Moscow that the situation in the region was rather tense and the sides remained divided on how to handle the problem.

Grachev said he would report the situation and his proposals to President Yeltsin after consultations with Ardzinba and Shevardnadze.

"If need be, I will ask the president for a meeting in Sochi, where he is on vacation, directly with the leaders of Abkhazia and Georgia," Grachev said.

"I am empowered to resolve the problem of bringing the refugees home. Apparently, I will stay in that region until appropriate conditions are brought about for that," Grachev said. He said he would decide on site whether it would be feasible to move additional peacekeeper forces to the zone of the Georgian-Abkhazian conflict.

The situation in Abkhazia worsened sharply on September 14, when refugees were about to begin to return to the Gali district of Abkhazia on the massive scale under Russian-Georgian agreements. However, strong resistance from Abkhazian authorities has delayed the return so far. The Abkhazian authorities said that the Russian peacekeepers, whose mission would be to cover the return of refugees acted contrary to all of the earlier signed agreements on the Abkhazian settlement. The army of Abkhazia has been put on the alert. The Abkhazian police has warned that they will open fire on refugees if their return is not agreed with the Sukhumi authorities.

According to various sources, the second attempt to start the return of refugees is to made today, on September 16. A senior Russian Foreign Ministry official does not rule out that Georgian refugees may begin to return to Abkhazia on Friday.

"Refugees were prepared to begin to return already yesterday, then they were going to do so today, but certain details of the return have remained unsettled. The peacekeepers, Georgia, Abkhazia are holding negotiations now," the official said in an interview. The expert described the current operation as an attempt at a fast solution.

"All sides are interested in an organized return," the diplomat said. "That would let the Russian peacekeepers make a decent walk-out of the affair, the Abkhazians would have no reasons for protests and the Georgians would heave a sigh of relief—after all 150-200 thousand refugees are a heavy burden on a country whose economic position is grave".

Abkhazian leaders are still strongly opposed to the plans for a quick return of Georgian refugees.

Abkhazian parliamentary speaker Vladislav Ardzinba described as a crude provocation the decision on the return of refugees to Abkhazia, which is to begin in coordination between Russian and Georgian officials.

Ardzinba said on television on Thursday evening that as a result of talks behind Abkhazia's back and contrary to the four-party agreement a decision was made on the massive return to Abkhazia of people among whom there were hundreds of armed Georgian militants.

The army of Abkhazia has remained on the alert. About three and a half thousand reservists in the Ochamchira district of Abkhazia bordering on the Gali district are prepared to move to the Inguri river any time. They are reinforced with armored vehicles and artillery.

Representatives from the office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees have refused to participate in the return of refugees to Abkhazia.

Shevardnadze Plans Talks With Yeltsin

LD1909091894 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0834 GMT 19 Sep 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Albert Kochetkov]

[Text] Tbilisi September 19 TASS—Georgian leader Eduard Shevardnadze plans to discuss with Russian President Boris Yeltsin not only the Abkhazian crisis, but also a wide range of other issues.

He told the Tbilisi radio before leaving for Sochi, where Yeltsin is to hold separate meetings with him and Abkhazian leader Vladislav Ardzinba on Monday, that, besides the Abkhazian settlement and the refugee problem, he would discuss the settlement in South Ossetia, development of Russian-Georgian relations, improvement of interstate relations in the CIS.

Abkhaz Refugees Suspend Hunger Strike, Road Blockade

LD1709201994 Tbilisi First Program Television Network in Georgian 1600 GMT 17 Sep 94

[Text] Georgian refugees from Abkhazia who have been on hunger strike in the village of Rukhi near the Georgian-Abkhaz border and have been blockading roads leading to Abkhazia have issued a statement saying that they are suspending their protest.

"We have to believe that the meeting between Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev and Georgian Head of State Eduard Shevardnadze on 16 September created new, promising prospects for a peaceful settlement of the Abkhaz problem. Therefore, we deem it appropriate to suspend our action from 1800 hours [1400 GMT] today, 17 September.

"If the current talks do not produce the required result, we reserve the right to resume the action in its extreme forms and to refuse to accept responsibility for the consequences."

International Body Calls for Punishment for Genocide

LD1809113394 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 0700 GMT 18 Sep 94

[Text] Yesterday, the Georgian head of state, Eduard Shevardnadze, met a coordinator of the permanent mission in the Abkhazian conflict zone of the citizen diplomacy international foundation and the president of the international fund for humanitarian initiatives, Nikolay Diko. Mr. Diko said that Eduard Shevardnadze's recent visit to Gudauta and Akhali Atoni [Novyy Afon] to hold talks there was regarded by the organizations as an example of bravery and courage. On behalf of the organization, Mr. Diko expressed support for Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev's stand and activities with respect to the Abkhazian issue. Mr. Diko said that if the Gudauta leaders failed to implement the adopted resolutions, the scant population of Abkhazia would find itself at a historic deadlock and this failure would be regarded as a challenge not only against Georgia but also against the whole world. Mr. Diko said that the organizations considered the fact of ignoring the genocide of ethnic Georgian population in Abkhazia as an anomaly and, therefore, they strived to expose those responsible for the crime against humanity and have them punished by the international court.

Mr. Diko said that professor Svetlana Chervon had published a book about causes of the Abkhazian tragedy and its organizers. He also said that a presentation of the book was expected in Russia, America, and a number of other states.

Nikolay Diko told Eduard Shevardnadze that Georgia's numerous friends in Russia had decided to unite and consolidate their forces to create an association of Russia's friends which will cooperate with Georgia in cultural and business spheres. A constituent meeting of the association will be held in Moscow on 4 October.

In conclusion of the meeting, Eduard Shevardnadze gave a positive assessment to the activities of the Citizen Diplomacy Foundation.

Official Admits Prisoner Beatings, Torture

AU1809134894 Tbilisi AKHALI TAOBA in Georgian 9 Sep 94 p 1, 3

[Interview with Georgian Deputy Prosecutor General Anzor Baluashvili by Nana Pridonashvili; place and date not given: "It Is Expected That Loti Kobalia Will Meet With Journalists"]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted) [Baluashvili] Once a month, Rezo Qipiani and I met with prisoners and asked them whether they had any grievances and whether their rights were being violated. They said they had none apart from the fact that they did not consider themselves guilty of the crimes of which they had been accused. I will never take it upon myself to say and confirm that everything is fine in the law enforcement and investigative bodies and that human rights are not being violated. They are being violated and very severely.

[Pridonashvili] So, you admit it is possible there have been facts of beatings and torture?

[Baluashvili] Of course, it is possible. Both beatings and torture are taking place; we are taking criminal proceedings against people. We are continuing to arrest people. We used to arrest even more before for manhandling [prisoners]. After all, what does Article 187 say? The forceful extraction of evidence is punishable by imprisonment. How can this be permitted in a normal country? However, the trouble is that we have simplified the criteria governing the work of our law enforcement bodies. We have both good and bad people, those who are honest and those who take bribes. [passage omitted]

[Pridonashvili] Batono Anzor, could you give us some news about Loti Kobalia [imprisoned former leader of ex-President Gamsakhurdia's armed formations]?

[Baluashvili] Kobalia is under investigation. He has an attorney.

[Pridonashvili] A state attorney or...?

[Baluashvili] At first, he had a state attorney. Now he can have whomever he wants. The investigation is proceeding. Many secrets will be revealed. The circumstances that led the country to tragedy will soon be known.

[Pridonashvili] Is Kobalia ill?

[Baluashvili] No. He survived a heart attack in the past and is examined weekly by a doctor at my request. It's very difficult in prison.... [passage omitted]

[Pridonashvili] If journalists from the [television program] "Saghamo Mshvidobisa" did not violate the principle of the presumption of innocence and managed a meeting with Dokvadze [imprisoned Gamsakhurdia supporter] and got him to appear on television, is it not possible for journalists to meet with Loti Kobalia?

[Baluashvili] I want this very much provided Loti Kobalia himself agrees. However, I still need two weeks before this can take place. The interrogation has still not been completed. As soon as it is possible for journalists to meet Kobalia, I will definitely let you know. Naturally, I will control what questions will be permitted so that no classified information pertaining to the investigation is made public.

[Pridonashvili] Thank you very much.

Separatist 'Trend' in Ajaria Refuted

LD1709121194 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 0800 GMT 17 Sep 94

[Text] Refuting his opponents' allegations that there is a trend towards separatism within the Ajaria authorities, Aslan Abashidze, chairman of the Ajarian Supreme Council, told journalists that the Ajaria Autonomous Republic transfers 74 percent of its income to the Georgian state budget and most of the remaining 24 percent is spent on refugees and displaced people from Abkhazia.

Shevardnadze, Germany's Siemens Discuss Projects

LD1709172294 Tbilisi IBERIA in Georgian 1500 GMT 17 Sep 94

[Text] Tbilisi, 17 Sep—Today, 17 September, Georgian Head of State Eduard Shevardnadze met a delegation of the German firm Siemens led by Rudolf Boertsch, the director of the firm's Eastern Europe department. The meeting discussed the introduction of modern medical equipment in Georgia and the building of communications facilities and small hydroelectric power stations. The guests noted that a great deal had been done in Georgia in the last year. Siemens household appliances would soon be available in Tbilisi. Georgian distributors had already been found. The launch of a new international telephone exchange is expected by the year's end.

Unfortunately, owing to various objective reasons, projects in the sphere of power engineering have not been implemented so far. In the opinion of the German guests, a project concerning energy supply is the most important one. In order to better familiarize themselves with the project, the guests visited the towns of Poti, Tkibuli, and Kutaisi yesterday. It is planned to assemble a Siemens diesel electricity generator in Poti, which will supply the town with additional electricity. The meeting heard that five Georgian citizens had already been granted a licence by Siemens to operate its sophisticated equipment.

At the end of the meeting the head of state thanked the German guests for interesting information and wished them success.

Bread Prices Rise 300-Fold; Transport Fares Increase

LD1709151594 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1242 GMT 17 Sep 94

[Text] Bread prices in Georgia on Saturday went up nearly 300-fold.

A kilogram of bread now costs 200,000 coupons, with the minimum monthly wage standing at 1 million coupons.

Underground fares in Tbilisi have risen 50 times over, bus fares 200-fold.

Electricity charges several days ago skyrocketed by a factor of 600, reaching 60,000 coupons per kilowatt, those for gas going up by nearly the same factor.

The government said the increases had been recommended by the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank as a means of balancing out the national budget and were a condition for a 60- million-Ecu loan.

Meanwhile, Tbilisi residents, mainly pensioners, have held spontaneous street meetings in several parts of the capital protesting against the price rises.

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